Hafa Adai!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Stellar Marianas to present last Miss Marianas pageant. PAGE 2

Matson to hike Guam, NMI rates in February 2009. PAGE 5

US plan for alien workers hazy

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While details are starting to emerge about other major changes under the Commonwealth's soon-to-be federalized immigration system, little remains known about the U.S. government's plans for the CNMI's foreign workers during the transition period.

ON THE NET

- To access U.S Homeland Security's regulatory plan, visit: http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic//component/main?main=UnifiedAgenda&agency=DHS&pubperiod=200810&rin=1651-AA77

The U.S Department of Homeland Security, in a "semi-annual regulatory" plan issued earlier this week, said only that the federal government, as required by law, will assume responsibility for visas for entry to the CNMI by nonresident workers.

The regulatory abstract also indicated

See US PLAN on Page 4

Q3 economic indices mixed

- Govt revenue jumps 7.1 percent
- Imports, exports drop
- Visitor arrivals, room rates up
- Remittances decline
- Bank deposits, loans go down
- Auto sales show uptick

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government spending dropped dramatically during the third quarter of 2008, according to a quarterly economic report issued yesterday by the Department of Commerce.

Government expenditures fell nearly 18 percent to $38.1 million in July-September 2008 from $46.4 million during 2008's second quarter. This

See Q3 on Page 4

ECONOMY

Study sees steep job losses under federalization

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under a federalized regime, unemployment by 2010 will soar to more than 30 percent for U.S.-qualified residents in the CNMI—making them desperate for jobs, according to a recent economic report.

Although federalization affects many low-wage foreign job holders, U.S.-qualified residents will also lose 2,630

See STUDY on Page 4

KRISTI EATON

Rosa Sablan, center, a teacher aide at Kagman Elementary, shows off her plaque after being named Teacher Aide of the Year.

Phillips named Teacher of the Year

KRISTI EATON

2008 Teacher of the Year Andrew Golden announces James Phillips, an MHS teacher, as the new Teacher of the Year.

KRISTI EATON

Patty Aguon-Cruz shows off her plaque after winning the Support Staff of the Year award.

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School teacher James Phillips was named the Public School System's Teacher of the Year, capping yesterday's whole-day celebration of Education Day at Hopwood Junior High School.

Marianas High School staff member Patty Aguon-Cruz was named Support

See PHILLIPS on Page 4

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most, how safe and secure do you feel these days inside your home?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Pentagon Chief
Obama intends to re-enlist Defense Secretary Robert Gates as head of the Pentagon.
NATION...Page 15

New Glow
Nicole Kidman has added new glow to her old glow.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

YCO CORPORATION

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Local

Stellar Marianas to present last Miss Marianas pageant

This Saturday, one queen will be crowned to represent the CNMI in the 2009 Miss Universe and Miss International pageants.

After months of hard work and preparation, five beautiful contestants will compete in the 2008 Miss Marianas Universe Pageant on Nov. 29, from 7pm to 10pm at the Palms Resort Saipan Theater Hall.

Doors will open at 6pm and tickets are now being sold for $20 a person at the *Marianas Variety* office in Garapan.

With today's economic downturn, Stellar Marianas, a non-profit organization composed of volunteers, has decided to take a break from pageantry and has announced that this pageant will be the last for a while.

"So if you have not seen a pageant or love the shows… this is the time to come and see it. With a rock-and-roll theme, this Miss Marianas Universe Pageant will be the show of the year," said Stellar Marianas president Laila Y. Boyer.

"Without the continued support of our generous sponsors and community, we would have not been able to offer this opportunity of a lifetime to our young women," she said.

"It is with a heavy heart that we realize we are all going through difficult times and the support is harder to give. Therefore, we will focus on completing the new titleholder's reign and then take a much needed rest," she added.

With that in mind, Stellar Marianas is going out with a bang as the 2008 Miss Marianas Universe Pageant not only has a live band performance from "Frozen N" for the first time in pageant history, but also has new twists to the swimsuit competition.

A Miss Marianas Universe 2008 Pageant After-Party will also be held at the Flair Bar in Garapan at 10pm following the pageant.

The five lovely candidates from Saipan and Rota for the Miss Marianas Universe pageant are Winona Camacho, 17; Alexandra Silva, 18; Bobbyjean Taisacan, 18; Sorene Maritita, 18; and Leovita Cabrera, 18.

The contestants just completed the preliminary interview competition, modeled after the Miss Universe preliminary competition, last Tuesday at Marianas Visitors Authority. ***(PR)***

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE
from
SENATOR LUIS P. CRISOSTIMO

A time to appreciate our blessings…

Thanksgiving has always been a time where people come together to celebrate their blessings. In 1621, Pilgrims and Native Americans took three days and celebrated their harvest together. More than 200 years later President Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, as a call for people to be grateful for their many blessings, while trying to reunite a divided country.

Today, at a time when there is so much focus around the world and with a struggling economy, our Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has many things to be grateful for. Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to come together from every corner of the world and appreciate our many blessings.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, lets us all remember those at home and abroad who help make the Commonwealth and our nation a land of opportunity and freedom. We especially remember our men and women in uniform who are bravely serving and protecting our nation everywhere. It's those who have served, and the many who will that truly make Thanksgiving a time of thanks.

Thank You • Si Yu'us Ma'ase • Tirow

/s/ Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo & Staff

Dear readers, advertisers and vendors of the *Saipan Tribune*,

Since August 2002, the *Saipan Tribune* has been proud to say that we are still the first and only media organization in the Northern Marianas that provides local news to our community seven days a week. Members of the *Tribune* team have been working every day to produce your community newspaper and keep you informed and entertained.

However, in today's economic storm, even the strongest of businesses—and yes, even a healthy company like the *Saipan Tribune*—are impacted by the shrinking of the pie. Therefore, every business, large and small, every government entity, and even every family should take a look at efficiency and what it will take to survive the bottoming out of the economy.

As one of our own cost-cutting measures, effective November 30, we will temporarily suspend the Sunday newspaper until economic conditions in the CNMI improve. We sincerely hope this will be soon.

Although we will miss our Sunday comics and other features, we feel that the temporary reduction in the newspaper schedule from seven days to six only makes sense at this time. You have our assurance that if there's a breaking story over the weekend that is of importance to the community, *Tribune* staff will continue to be there and you can read about it in our popular online edition at **"http://www.saipantribune.com."**

On behalf of *Saipan Tribune*, thank you to all of our readers, vendors and advertisers. You have our commitment to continue to serve you as we weather this economic storm together.

Lynn Knight
Publisher
Saipan Tribune

So far, 91 DUIs on Saipan, zero on Tinian

By FERDIE DE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From January to October 2008, the Department of Public Safety made 98 arrests for driving while under the influence of alcohol on Saipan, none on Tinian, and four on Rota.

According to DPS, the CNMI also recorded one related DUI fatality that happened on Saipan in the same period.

DPS disclosed the numbers yesterday during Gov. Benigno Fitial's proclamation declaring December as CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (3Ds).

DPS said that in 2007, a total of 41,059 people nationwide died in motor vehicle traffic crashes and that 32 percent of these crashes were the result of alcohol-impaired driving.

During the month of December in 2007, 3,235 people were reportedly killed in crashes on America's roadways. Of that number, 992 people died in crashes that involved a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

At the proclamation signing held at DPS Central Office in Susupe, Fitial said the 3Ds program raises awareness of the impact of impaired driving.

"When they drive, they care not only for their own lives, but also for the lives of others, a strict awareness of safety when they're driving," Fitial said.

DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela said they are going to strictly enforce the laws against drunk and drugged drivers this December.

"If you go out drinking, you should take with you a designated driver," Tudela said.

He said they get more traffic fatalities during the holiday season due to drunk drivers.

"So what we are going to do is we want to make sure you are safe during the holidays. We want you to reach your destination safely," the commissioner said.

CID, Traffic Section offices transfer to renovated prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has transformed the former Department of Corrections' Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Minimum Security in Susupe into the new offices of the Criminal Investigation Division and Traffic Section.

Detectives and traffic officers started occupying the former RSAT Minimum Security, located behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, late October 2008.

The officers volunteered their time to paint and clean up the former jail. They also removed some metal items like chairs and tables to convert the former detention facility into spacious offices.

Yesterday morning, DPS had Fr. Jessie Reyes bless the building.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the blessing, acting CID commander Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar said they are very happy to have new offices.

Rangamar said they are very thankful to Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja, who assisted them in getting one side of the building.

He said the Probation Office may likely occupy the other wing of the building soon.

Rangamar said that funds used for the transfer came from local sources and were used mostly to purchase paints because CID and Traffic personnel volunteered their time to do the renovation work.

Rangamar said that working in the former Superior Court building where CID and Traffic Section used to hold offices was very hazardous.

"You got concrete falling down on the floor, you got leaks, you got problems with electrical," he said.

The CID acting chief noted that even the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could not pinpoint as to which of the buildings in the former Superior Court triggered the explosion of a transformer a few months ago.

The former RSAT Minimum Facility is owned by the local courts and DOC under a memorandum of understanding. The facility used to be occupied by those arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs and for those arrested for small claims.

The building had been idle for four to five months after DOC transferred all inmates from the old DOC facility to the new building in Susupe.

He said the idea to transfer had been in the works since Claudio K. Norita was the DPS commissioner.

"We talked to the commissioner [Santiago Tudela] that we have to move out of here and get an office to get the guys working," Rangamar said.

He said they started renovating the facility last October and that it took them two weeks to complete their work. After the renovation, DPS had to wait for the telephone company to move in and start putting in the wires for the phones.

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Shell lowers prices again by 30 cents

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the continuing decrease in market costs, Shell Marianas Inc. has once again lowered its prices for regular unleaded, V Power and diesel fuel.

Regular unleaded will be reduced by thirty cents a gallon, Shell V Power will be reduced by fifteen cents a gallon and Shell Diesel will lower by thirty cents a gallon.

"Shell's average market cost of regular unleaded, V Power and diesel fuel products continued to decline and Shell will pass these savings on to our customers," company president Eloy Lizama said in a statement yesterday.

SHELL NEW PRICES

REGULAR	
Self-service	$3.13
Full service	$3.26
V POWER	
Self-service	$3.45
Full service	$3.57
Diesel	$3.90

The new prices will go into effect at midnight Wednesday

Shell last cut its prices on Nov. 19 by 30 cents.

There was no immediate word if Mobil Oil Marianas will also lower its prices but the two companies have traditionally mirrored each other's price movements. Mobil does not usually issue media statements about price adjustments.

Last week, Rep. Joseph C. Reyes, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, wrote a letter to Shell Marianas and Mobil Marianas, asking why gas prices were 30 cents to 50 cents more than in 2007, when crude oil was trading at similar prices.

Light sweet crude oil was trading for $50.36 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange yesterday.

PHILLIPS

From Page 1

Staff of the Year, while Rosa Sablan, of Kagman Elementary, was named Teacher Aide of the Year.

All three received plaques and money, as well as resolutions in their honor.

MHS principal Karen Borja said she is happy that both Phillips and Aguon-Cruz were awarded the top prizes.

"There's a lot of great faculty and staff," she said. "This will boost morale."

Phillips was named the TOY after an application process and classroom observation. Since 2004-2005, he has taught marine science, honors astronomy and Advanced Placement physics at MHS. He holds a Master of Science Degree and is a staff instructor for the Professional Association of Diving Instructors. He recently developed a marine science course for students to earn open water certification while conducting their own underwater marine research.

Sablan has been a teacher aide for KES's special education department for the last five years. Prior to that she worked with special education students at San Antonio Elementary. She currently is taking classes at Northern Marianas College to earn certification as a related services technician.

Aguon-Cruz is MHS's librarian aide II.

Business managers, NMC education officials and a community member selected the winners.

Dancing skills

Hundreds of Public School System employees showed their dancing skills yesterday at the annual Education Day celebration.

The event was a chance for PSS teachers and staff to get together and honor each other. Each school choreographed and performed a dance, some wearing togas or grass skirts and wigs.

During each dance the school's respective nominees for Teacher of the Year, Teacher Aide of the Year, and Support Staff of the Year were announced.

"It's a good chance for all the teachers to see each other," said Megan Nevitt, a 6th grade teacher at Garapan Elementary.

Felix Mresbang, a World History teacher at Marianas High School, said the day is a way to acknowledge the work teachers and staff members do on a daily basis.

"It gives them the motivation to do their best everyday," he said.

Like any organization it's important to take the time to recognize employees, education commissioner Rita Sablan said.

"It gives them motivation and a sense of personal belonging," she said. "Taking that time is crucial, especially when everyone is so busy. Taking one day to recognize the employees is just a wonderful experience."

Board of Education members, Saipan mayor Juan Tudela, Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez, members of Youth Congress and the Legislature also were in attendance.

The event culminated with the naming of the System-wide Teacher of the Year, Teacher Aide of the Year and Support Staff of the Year.

After the performances and announcements were complete, participants gathered together to eat a Thanksgiving meal.

STUDY

From Page 1

high-wage jobs, about a fifth of the total jobs in 2005, according to the report by Malcolm D. McPhee & Associates and Dick Conway.

As unemployment increases, many of the U.S.-qualified residents will become desperate and, assuming no outmigration to the mainland United States occurs, "they will have to turn to the visitor industry for work," the report states. The visitor industry will also be experiencing a loss of workers due to deportation by the federal government.

"In an effort to survive, establishments in the visitor industry will start offering significantly higher wages to attract the much needed workers," the report states. "At the same time, these businesses will try to figure out ways of improving the efficiency of their operations. With a rising minimum wage, wages and salaries throughout the economy will increase, thereby enticing more people in the existing population to enter the labor force."

The rising minimum wage will increase the attractiveness of the jobs, according to the report.

"Assuming that U.S.-qualified residents want to remain in the CNMI," the report says, "the visitor industry and its multiplier effect on the rest of the economy create enough job opportunities to not only take care of the previously unemployed U.S.-qualified residents but also to draw many new people from the existing population into the labor force. Thus, the number of working U.S.-qualified residents rises to 15,270 in 2015, much higher than ever before."

But, according to the report, the jobs offered will pay lower wages than most U.S.-qualified residents have come to expect.

"In cases like this, people tend to work more to make up the difference. This is why the scenario is also called the 'make do' scenario," the report states.

The Office of the Governor commissioned the report with a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

US PLAN

From Page 1

that there will be no chance of change to the provisions for foreign workers. "This rule is required by statute and alternatives were not considered," states the document, which appeared on the federal government's www.regulations.gov website on Tuesday.

The DHS document further revealed that a $320 annual fee will be collected from each of the estimated 22,000 CNMI-only workers during the transition period. It did not offer details about the fees.

Further, the document acknowledged that the effect of the rule on the CNMI economy is "uncertain at this point." Citing the Senate report of the immigration act, the document said that the risks to homeland security, which result from "the lack of integrity in the CNMI immigration system," are the main driver for the legislation.

Under the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which provides for the federal takeover of local immigration, a CNMI-only work permit program will be in effect during the transition period. This program can be extended indefinitely by the U.S. Secretary of Labor for up to five years at a time.

In addition to being able to hire "transitional" workers, employers in the CNMI and Guam can petition for foreign workers under the federal nonimmigrant H visa process, without limitation by established numerical caps.

However, after the transition period ends, all foreign workers in the CNMI must be under the federal visa system. H visas will no longer be available for workers in continuous, rather than temporary, low-skill positions.

During and after the transition period, CNMI employers can also petition for employment-based permanent immigration status for workers under the same procedures as other U.S. employers.

The Fitial administration is contesting the labor provisions of the immigration act in the U.S. courts. The administration has a pending request for the court to stop the DHS and the U.S. Department of Labor from implementing the provisions.

2 women get jail term for 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court on Tuesday imposed prison term on two women involved in separate "ice" trafficking cases on Tinian.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Xiao Feng Li to 10 months in prison with credit for the time she has already served in federal prison.

Munson sentenced the other defendant, Guihua Luo King, to 12 months in prison with credit for the time she has already served in jail.

After serving their prison term, both Li and King will be placed on three years of supervised release. Li and King, both Chinese, will then be delivered to Immigration for deportation.

The two defendants will be required each to perform 200 hours of community service and to immediately pay $100 in court assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley moved to impose a 10-month prison term on Li and 12 months for King.

Defense attorneys F. Matthew Smith and Vincent Seman, counsel for Li and King respectively, did not object to the government's recommendation.

On Aug. 21, 2008, Li, alias Lili, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. On the same day, King, alias Mimi, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute "ice."

The plea agreement stated that on April 12, 2008, Li was caught in possession of 0.76 grams of "ice."

With respect to King, the agreement stated that on April 12, 2008, she entered into an agreement with another person to possess with the intent to distribute 1.5 net grams of "ice."

The U.S. government charged Guihua King and her husband, retired Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee Oscar M. King, for selling "ice" on Tinian.

But on Oct. 21, 2008, the U.S. government moved to dismiss the case against the 62-year-old Oscar King.

3 charges vs ex-CUC staff dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday dismissed with finality the three charges against a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee who was among five ex-CUC staff accused of engaging in a power disconnection scam.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed one count of theft of services and two counts of conspiracy to commit theft of services filed against Francisco F. Faisao, who is a former CUC disconnection crew.

Manglona made the decision after the Attorney General's Office moved to drop the charges.

Faisao, however, still faces one count of violation of the CUC Code, according to his lawyer, Edward Arriola Sr.

The trial was set for Dec. 15, 2008.

"My client is elated. But nevertheless, we spent already a year and a half on this. They were charged since May. They were charged with theft. They were not charged initially with violation of the CUC Code," Arriola told *Saipan Tribune.*

The lawyer said his client never committed theft. "It was then a big publicity and at the end they [AGO] dismissed it," Arriola said.

Also facing charges in the case are former CUC credit and collections supervisor Elaine Q. Terlaje, former customer service representative Rita I. Tarope, and disconnection crew Ricardo C. Sablan and Joaquin E. Norita.

The defendants allegedly conspired to purposely skip the names of family members and friends from CUC's disconnection list, allowing them to continue drawing power from CUC.

Faisao allegedly got $1,096.85 in the scam. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

Q3

From Page 1

is the lowest number since the second quarter of 2007, when government spending was $38 million.

Both general fund revenue—taxes and fees collected—and business gross revenue saw increases. General fund revenue increased from $39.5 million in the second quarter to $47.37 million in the third quarter—a 7.1-percent increase, while business gross revenue increased from $423.96 million in second quarter 2008 to $427.58 in third quarter 2008—a 0.9-percent increase.

Tourism indicators also saw a boost this quarter.

Visitor numbers rose from 93,939 in the second quarter of 2008 to 97,160 in the third quarter—a 3.4-percent increase, while the average hotel occupancy rate increased 3.8 percent to 59.2 percent during July-September. It was 57 percent in April-June. Average hotel daily rates increased from $92.8 in the second quarter to $101.86 in the third quarter 2008—a 9.8-percent increase.

Both imports and exports saw drops.

Imports fell from 99,470 tons in April-June 2008 to 89,270 tons in July-September.

Exports continue to decline as garment factories close. This quarter saw a 37.8 percent drop—from $25.24 million in second quarter 2008 to $15.7 million in third quarter 2008.

Also, remittances saw a decrease from $19.7 million during April-June 2008 to $19.1 million during July-September 2008—a 3.3-percent decrease.

Although the number of building permits dropped from 57 in the second quarter to 56 in the third quarter 2008, the total value increased from $12.3 million in second quarter to 14.8 million in third quarter.

Telephone lines saw a slight decrease—less than 1 percent—from 29,528 during April-June of this year to 29,487 during July-September of this year.

Banking deposits and loans both decreased in the third quarter of 2008 compared to the second quarter.

Deposits dropped from $478.85million during April-June to $446.34 million during July-September, while loans decreased from$149.14 million during the second quarter of 2008 to $144.65 in the third quarter.

During July-September, auto sales increased 11.5 percent to 252 total cars sold. During April-June 226 cars were sold.

DPH reminds public to avail of free HIV testing

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the observance of World's AIDS Day on Monday, Dec. 1, the Department of Public Health is reminding everyone of the importance of undergoing a regular blood test to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes the dreaded disease.

Rapid HIV testing is now available free of charge at Family Planning clinics on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

AIDS, or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, is a disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, which destroys the body's immune system.

"Normally, your immune system helps you fight off illness. When your immune system fails you can become very sick and can die," explained Arielle Buyum, RN, BSN, MPH, Family Planning Program Manager of DPH. He said HIV kills the cells that help the body fight off infection and disease.

The rapid HIV test is done on the lining of the mouth so no blood draw is needed. The test takes 20 minutes, so results are available that same visit. "It is safe, easy, and quick," Buyum said.

Aside from HIV testing, the program also provides education services onsite at its Family Planning-funded clinics throughout the CNMI.

"Now family planning services may play a larger role in people knowing their HIV status to prevent the transmission of HIV to sexual partners as well as transmission during pregnancy," Buyum stressed.

She said few people know their HIV status and this lack of knowledge may create a setting for the spread of HIV.

"The family planning program is working with the HIV/STD program to increase the number of people who are aware of their HIV status, allow HIV-positive individuals to obtain necessary medical care and treatment to extend their lives, and allow HIV-positive individuals to make decisions to reduce the risk of transmission, including safer sex practices and contraceptive methods," Buyum said.

The onsite testing aims to maximize the effectiveness and impact of services by providing complete reproductive health care that addresses individuals' dual risks of HIV infection and unintended pregnancy.

Testing is currently available at the Southern Community Wellness Center (664-4850); CHC Women's Clinic (234-8950); and the Adolescent Health Center at Marianas High School (237-3283); all three clinics are located on Saipan.

The contact number at the Tinian Health Center is 433-9263 while the Rota Health Center is 532-9461.

Matson to hike Guam, NMI rates in Feb.

Matson Navigation Company will raise its rates for the company's Guam/CNMI service by $120 per westbound and eastbound container, effective Feb. 1 next year. The NMI rate increase applies to Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Matson will also raise its West Coast terminal handling charge by $175 for both westbound and eastbound containers, also effective Feb. 1, 2009. Matson will also implement a new crane surcharge of $125 per container, which is designed to help recover costs associated with the purchase and operation of three gantry cranes in Guam; the new charge will be implemented in March 2009, when the cranes have started operations.

The increase will be filed with the Surface Transportation Board.

"This rate increase will help offset rises in operating costs and support ongoing investments in our Guam service," said Dave Hoppes, senior vice president, ocean services.

Matson's terminal handling charge was first implemented in 2003 and is designed to recover a portion of the extraordinary costs associated with the movement of cargo through terminals. This charge is standard in the industry and appears as a separate line item at the bottom of the company's freight bills.

"Terminal handling costs comprise over 40 percent of Matson's operating costs," said Hoppes. "Matson continues to absorb most of the costs associated with terminal operations, the majority of which are driven by factors that are outside of our control, but needs to pass on some of the increased expenses to our customers."

To support Guam's infrastructure, three gantry cranes have been purchased by Matson and Horizon Lines from the Port of Los Angeles and are currently being refurbished, with delivery to Guam scheduled for early next year.

Matson is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. of Honolulu. ***(PR)***

Comments sought on As Matuis resort plan

The Legislature is seeking public comments on a Korean firm's plans to build a multi-million dollar resort in As Matuis.

The House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs will hold public hearings next month to let local residents have their say on the proposed land lease by Flame Sako Resort Hotel and Spa.

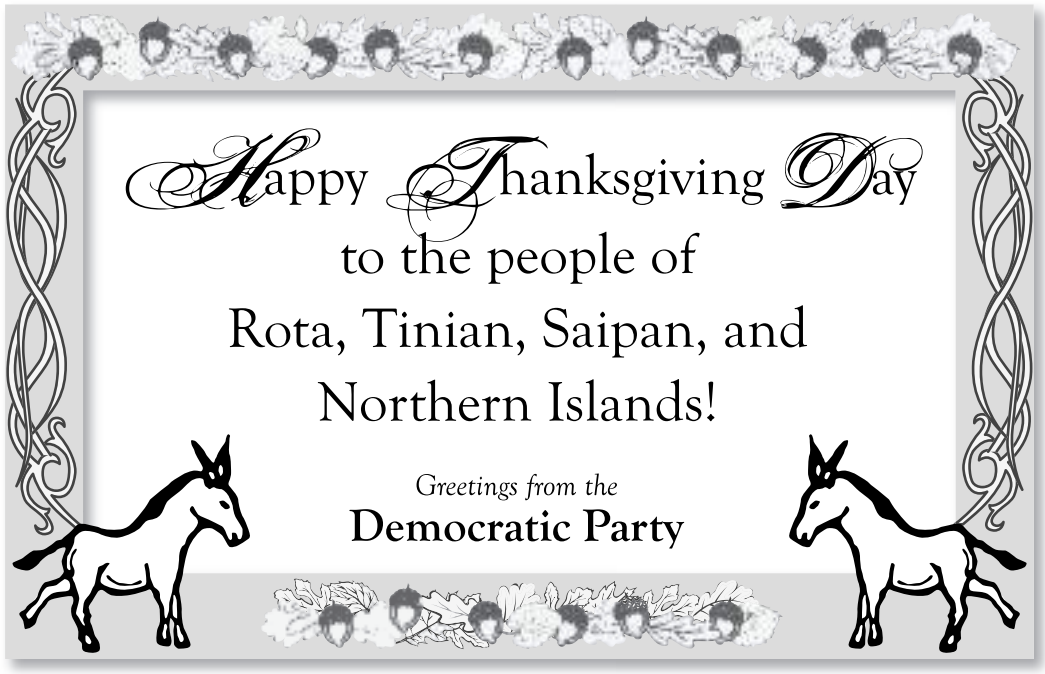
The public hearings will be held on Dec. 9, 2008, 6:30pm, at GTC Elementary School in San Roque, and on Dec. 10, 2008, 6:30pm, at the Multi Purpose Center in Susupe.

Written comments may also be submitted to the offices of Rep. Ramon Tebuteb and Sen. Jude Hofchneider, chairmen of the respective committees.

Flame Tree Sako, headed by president Kang Dae Sik, wants to lease 10.9 hectares of property located immediately north of Palms Resort in As Matuis for the construction of a nine-floor, 357-room resort. The project carries an estimated price tag of $50 million to $60 million, according to the Department of Public Lands.

The new resort plans come after DPL earlier this year canceled a lease with Win DNC, a company that also had plans to build a resort in the same area as the Sako proposal. DPL said the company had violated its lease and failed to provide the necessary "good faith" financing for the project.

The Constitution grants DPL the authority to dispose of public lands. The constitutional limit to a leasehold interest in public lands is 25 years including renewal rights. An extension of up to 15 years may be given upon the approval by three-fourths of the members of the Legislature. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***



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Strong B+ rating of Century Insurance affirmed

OLDWICK, N.J.—A.M. Best Co. has affirmed the financial strength rating of B+ (Good) and the issuer credit rating of "bbb-" of Century Insurance Co., Ltd. in the Northern Mariana Islands. The outlook for both ratings is stable.

The ratings reflect CIC Saipan's solid market position on Saipan, improvement in premium leverage and stable investment income. The ratings also acknowledge the company's efforts to achieve a better spread of geographical risk through steady business expansion in Guam and its plan to lower its asset risk on a stand-alone basis by transferring its affiliates—Century Insurance Company of Guam and Century Insurance Papua New Guinea—to its immediate holding entity, Tan Holdings Corp.

CIC Saipan recorded improvement in net premium leverage on a consolidated basis from 1.7 times in 2006 to 1.54 times in 2007 due to higher surplus growth. CIC Saipan's capitalization on a consolidated basis, as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio, remained adequate to support its risk profile in 2007, while the BCAR was weak on a stand-alone basis. Nonetheless, CIC Saipan's plan to transfer the ownership of CIC Guam and Century Insurance Papua New Guinea to its immediate parent will reduce both CIC Saipan's assets and underwriting risk on a stand-alone basis, although the planned capital repatriation of $2 million and the proposed $2.5 million of dividend payment after the transfer also will greatly reduce the company's capitalization on an absolute basis in 2008.

CIC has established a solid presence in both the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam through partnering with two key distributors. In an attempt to facilitate its ongoing business growth as well as diversify its book, CIC Saipan converted its Guam operation branch into a locally established operating subsidiary in 2006 and launched another subsidiary in Papua New Guinea in 2007.

Offsetting factors include volatile underwriting results, adverse operating conditions in Saipan, high catastrophe exposure in the CNMI and Guam, heavy reliance on two major distribution channels and credit risk associated with CIC Saipan's insurance receivables.

CIC Saipan suffered an underwriting loss on Saipan due to unfavorable claim experience of its motor book. Additionally, a further decline in written premium due to the closures of garment factories and a reduction of foreign workers on Saipan accelerated the increase in the company's expense ratio. Notwithstanding the sound underwriting results from Guam, CIC Saipan's consolidated combined ratio rose to 102.3 percent in 2007 from 92.8 percent in 2006.

CIC Saipan is subject to catastrophic perils in the CNMI and Guam even though it is reasonably protected under current reinsurance programs. Increased frequency in weather-related catastrophic events could potentially induce underwriting volatility for CIC Saipan.

CIC Saipan has a high degree of concentration risk associated with its distribution platform. The company sourced 90 percent of its business in terms of gross premiums written in 2007 through two major distribution channels. Additionally, CIC Saipan's insurance receivables remained high, representing more than 44 percent of the company's total consolidated assets as at year-end 2007. Any material adverse credit development in connection with the insurance receivables will put a strain on the company's financial strength.

Founded in 1899, A.M. Best Company is a global full-service credit rating organization dedicated to serving the financial and health care service industries, including insurance companies, banks, hospitals and health care system providers. For more information, visit www.ambest.com. ***(BUSINESS WIRE)***

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Fitial: Lawsuit over LaoLao lease irresponsible, nonsense

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial described yesterday as "irresponsible" and "nonsense" the taxpayers' lawsuit filed against him, the Department of Public Lands, and DPL Secretary John S. DelRosario over the lease of 1.6 million square meters of prime public land to Saipan Laulau Development Inc.

"Irresponsible in a sense that it would drive away the anchor investor that we have," Fitial told the media.

Fitial said this investor, Kumho Holdings (H.K.) Co. Ltd., is not only bringing in condominium investment that would enhance the CNMI as a tourist destination, but it is also bringing in tourist dollars because they transport visitors from Asia to the CNMI.

"This is going to be very, very seriously considered. You don't drive an airline out of the CNMI when we are in a devastated mode in our local economy," he said.

According to the lawsuit filed by Ramon M. San Nicolas, Vicente C. Aldan, Tarsicio Olopai, and Juan M. Deleon Guerrero, the Commonwealth people will lose a minimum of $16.6 million for the full 40-year term of the lease agreement.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Edward Manibusan, challenged the legality of the lease, saying its terms are not commercially reasonable, contrary to the public interest, and are in violation of the CNMI Constitution.

Fitial hopes that the plaintiffs will reconsider the lawsuit because it will have a very negative impact on the economy.

"They are counting on chicks that have not been hatched!" the governor said.

He said he is very confident that the lawsuit will not prosper in court because "it is not only irresponsible but nonsense."

With respect to the alleged $16.6 million that the CNMI will lose, Fitial reply: "It's stupid to be talking about something that does not exist." ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

Legislature OKs booze at airports

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature has passed a measure allowing the sale of alcoholic drinks at all airports in the Northern Marianas.

The legislation, which cleared the House of Representatives six months ago, got the Senate's approval during a session on Tinian Tuesday.

If the bill is signed into law, passengers will be able to consume alcohol any time of the day at Saipan, Tinian and Rota's international airports within the "sterile passenger holding areas," which include areas at and beyond the screening checkpoints, holding rooms and boarding gates.

Currently, the government only allows vendors like bars, clubs, among other related establishments, to sell or serve any alcoholic beverages from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Supermarkets and stores can only sell alcohol up to 10 p.m.

Saipan Republicans House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, Reps. Diego T. Benavente and Ray N. Yumul are the sponsors of the bill, which will become law once the governor signs it.

"Due to the difficult economic situation the Commonwealth is currently facing, it is very important to find any means that will encourage revenue," the bill states.

According to the bill, passengers arriving and departing in Commonwealth airports come from different time zones and should not be subject to statutes regulating purchase of alcoholic beverages on certain hours.

"It is the purpose of this act to allow, within the sterile passenger holding areas the purchase of alcoholic beverages, regardless of time or day for consumption within, as a way of generating more revenue," the bill says.

Staff shortage hobbles OPA's performance

The Office of the Public Auditor is facing a staff shortage that undermines its ability to evaluate the use of the Commonwealth's public resources.

According to Public Auditor Mike Pai, plans are underway to hire more staff to help the agency keep up with its basic duties, as well as the work it has been asked to do by the Legislature and other agencies.

Currently, OPA only has one audit manager overseeing the audits. The agency is also down to six analysts—from nine previously—doing the audits, performance evaluations, and other related work.

Meanwhile, OPA's work continues to expand. In addition to audits and investigations, OPA also monitors financial disclosures and writes decisions on appeal for all procurement protests except for two autonomous agencies.

Only this month, the House of Representatives adopted two resolutions asking OPA to perform a closeout audit of the CNMI Office of the Resident Representative to Washington, D.C. and an economic impact study of the Commonwealth Development Authority's qualifying certificate program.

Pai said he met with the lawmakers on Tuesday to clarify the request for an economic impact study. During the meeting, the lawmakers agreed to have OPA conduct only a performance audit and gather information that may help an economist to determine the actual economic impact of the program.

"The Legislature realizes that we're short-staffed and we're working with them to figure out when we can do the audits," Pai said. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

HADI Interior Designs moves to new location

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cathy Wei, HADI associate, with store wallpaper selection.

HADI proprietor Kang Nea Soon is also a working artist with her own artwork, and those of her colleagues.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aesthetics is usually low on the human priority of everyone during critical economic conditions, so places like HADI Interior Designs would not be one of the popular stopovers of the run-of-the-mill shopping consumer. But that is hardly a constraint to Kang Nea Soon, proprietress of the HADI Interior Designs, and her associate Cathy Wei, who cater to the made-to-order requirements of the appreciative consumer. In the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas shopping days of the nation, the busiest and the mainstay of American commerce, it might not be a bad idea for those with discriminating taste in home and office interior design to pay HADI a visit.

Previously located on the second floor of a Korean business establishment along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa, HADI Interior Designs has made itself more accessible to the public. Sandwiched between the PC Outlet and the Wells Fargo Financial Center, HADI Interior Designs is now at ground level in one of the shopping hubs at the corner of Msgr. Guerrero (start in Lagoon-side of Back Road) and Pale Arnold Rd. (southern end of Middle Rd.) of the Oleai/San Jose commercial district.

A primary offering that the shop provides is its furniture-making service made to the orders of customers. Promoting the use of locally available lumber and other materials on Saipan, HADI is prepared to work with consumers in meeting their specific requirements.

Complementing the furniture are various selection in flooring tiles and wallpaper sheets. Flooring tiles include choices in carpet, fabrics, wood, and marble. Other products available from Korean production factories would also be accessed if desired. The wallpaper sheets come in stone, wood, glass, and sun styles.

Kan Nea Soon also has a history of assisting interior renovations within the hotel and restaurant industries, as well as private homes. With her own artwork, as well as her expertise particularly in Oriental interior designs, the materials' proprietor is also a working artist. ***(PR)***

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Managaha, Tinian get green flags

The Division of Environment Quality has declared the waters of Managaha and Tinian islands safe for swimming.

Water samples taken from Tinian's and Managaha's beaches and dock as part of routine sampling showed no excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

DEQ analyzed 11 samples from the shores surrounding Managaha and water samples taken from 10 locations on Tinian this week.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm. To receive email notifications of the reports, send an email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Ito completes Marine Corps training

PFC Eva Alexis C. Ito, daughter of Alexander and Bernita Ito, completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, on Nov. 7, 2008. Ito successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

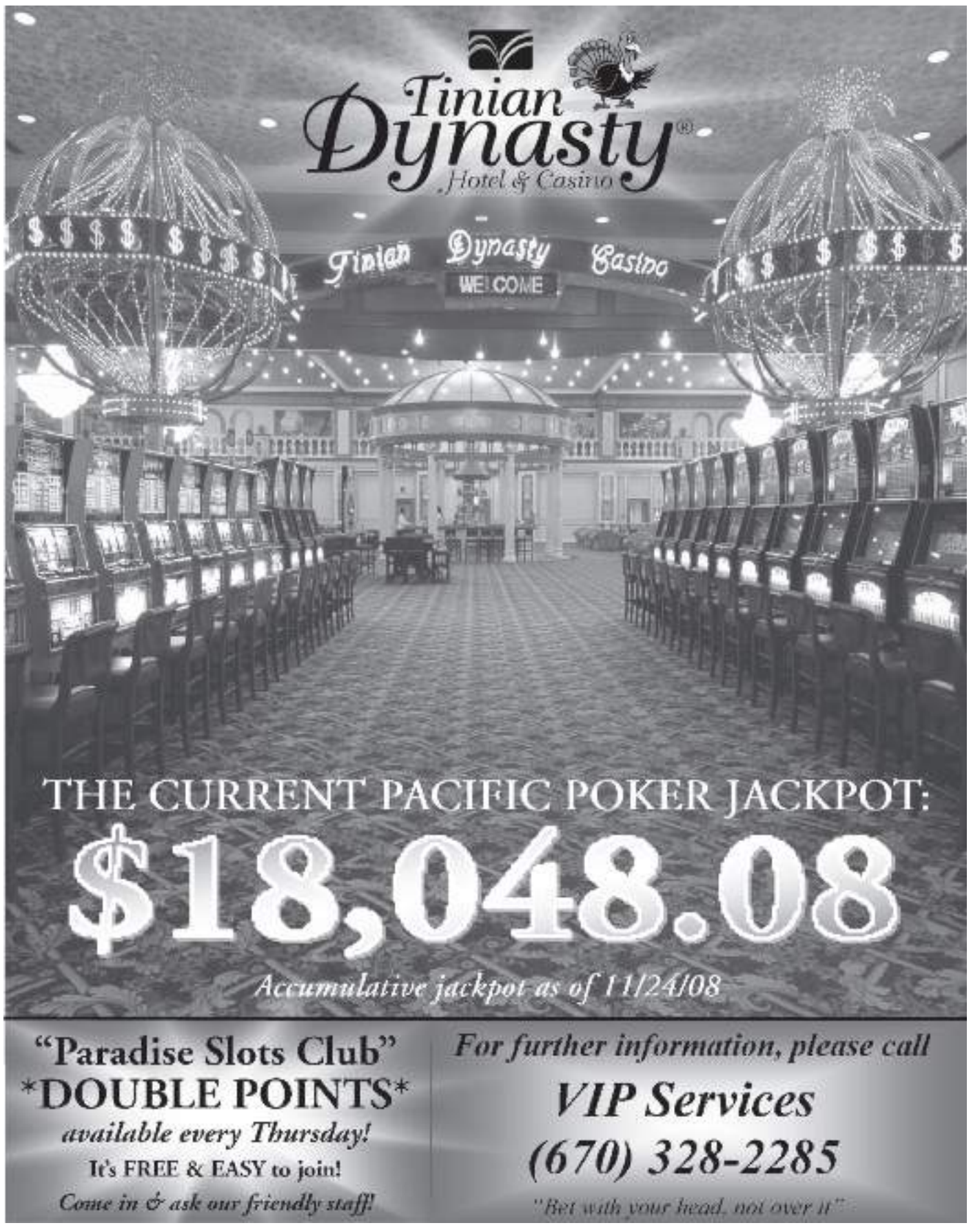
Ito and her fellow recruits began their training each day at 4am, by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition to the physical conditioning program, Ito spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments, which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training. They performed close order drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training.

Ito also received instructions on the Marine Corps' core values—honor, courage and commitment, and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Ito and fellow recruits ended the training phase with the Crucible, a 54-hour team effort and problem solving evolution. After graduation from Parris Island, she reported to Camp Geiger, NC on Nov. 25, 2008, for four weeks of military combat training.

Ito graduated from Saipan Southern High School in June 2008. ***(PR)***

Ito



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 27,1998

Hotels up for sale

A group of investors from Dubai has been negotiating with the management of Riviera Resort Club and Koreana Hotel in connection with the sale of these two establishments. The businessmen already visited the Northern Marianas four times inspecting the two hotels and finalizing the agreement, according to Tony Glad, president of Glad's Saipan, Inc., a real estate development firm. Koreana Hotel's selling price is $2.5 million while Riviera Resort is $15 million, said Glad. "We are still working on the deal. But we are almost certain with Koreana Hotel," he added.

Managaha mess

A group of local investors has criticized the Board of Public Land for dragging its feet in deciding the next franchise holder of Managaha Island which it said should be blamed for the controversies haunting the bidding for the tourist resort. "This would not be much controversial had the Board of Public Land made its decision a long time ago," according to JM Guerrero, president of Marianas Marine Management, Inc., one of the companies seeking rights to run Managaha. According to Guerrero, as early as July the policy-making body has sought proposals to operate Managaha Island because the lease agreement of Japanese-owned Tasi Tours was to expire in September.

November 27,2000

Lending activities down 15 percent

In what appears to be an alarming sign that the CNMI economy is yet to witness even the slightest growth, private banking institutions have cut down lending activities in the third quarter of the year by as much as 15 percent. Overall amount of loan agreements approved by eight commercial and savings banks in the Northern Marianas shrunk by $44.5 million to $255.7 million in the third quarter of 2000 from $300.2 million of the same period last year. According to a report prepared by Jesse Palacios of the commerce department's Banking Division, only loan agreements with the Commonwealth government registered growth in the period under review.

Petition for Erap's ouster

A petition supporting the call of resignation or removal from office of Philippine President Joseph Estrada has been going around in the CNMI among overseas Filipino workers based here. More than a thousand have reportedly signed the paper that began circulating immediately after the political crisis confronting the Estrada administration hit last month. The one-page petition has sought support from the estimated 20,000 Filipino workers and residents on the islands for the mounting calls back home for their embattled president to step down.

November 27,2001

No budget yet for BB

Nine days into its official existence yet the Transition Committee remains without a budget, as the bill that would provide the funding for their operations remains pending at the House of Representatives. It may be, however, that the lower chamber will act on House Bill 12-424 during tomorrow's special session-the second in a series of marathon sessions that the House will hold to act on remaining pieces of legislations. As provided for in the proposed measure, the Legislature seeks to provide the transition panel with $275,000 that it would use for its operations and for the inaugural expenses of the incoming Babauta administration.

OPA faults CUC on overseas travel

Failure of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board to adopt travel policies similar to those of the CNMI government has resulted in losses through overpayments and unliquidated advances covering the period from October 1999 through March 2001. This was the result of an audit conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor on travel expenses incurred by CUC officials, Board members and personnel covering an 18-month period up to March this year. Besides this, the audit also found out that CUC management has not adopted a written and comprehensive travel policy manual to guide its Board members and personnel.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

The freedom challenge

Barbarity in Burma last week served as a reminder that, with or without President-elect Barack Obama, the global struggle for liberty will rage on long after George W. Bush takes his "freedom agenda" home to Texas.

Some of Mr. Obama's foreign policy advisers are nearly as impatient to deep-six that policy as they are to bid farewell to its author. They believe that Mr. Bush's extravagant rhetoric overpromised and underperformed. Dissidents were encouraged and then abandoned. Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay mocked Washington's pretensions to lead or lecture.

The critics are right on all counts. If Mr. Obama intends to govern with more humility, caution and realism, we say, bring it on. U.S. foreign policy could use a healthy dose of all three.

But abandoning the promotion and support of democracy as core American goals would be a terrible mistake. Mr. Bush was right to see freedom as integral to all other foreign policy objectives. The stifling of democratic alternatives in Arab countries fuels terrorism. China's succor of dictators in Africa impedes healthy development in poor countries. Democracies are more likely, over time, to cooperate honestly with each other on global challenges such as climate change and disease control. And the United States can regain and retain the stature to lead in the world, on any issue, only if it is using its power on behalf of universal ideals.

No doubt these principles will feature somewhere in the new administration's rhetoric. But because other, seemingly more hardheaded considerations will always compete, the rhetoric will not mean much unless democracy promotion is baked into the administration's structure, budget and personnel.

The need is especially urgent when global recession could undermine democracy and stoke bellicose nationalism. It's urgent, too, because in the past decade, dictators and authoritarian ruling parties have learned to fight back. When Vladimir Putin seeks to extend Russia's influence, he doesn't just want more people watching Russian movies or buying Russian MiGs. He wants to replicate among his neighbors the kind of one-party rule he has imposed on his own country. His efforts will continue whether or not the Obama administration chooses to push back on behalf of the budding democracies Mr. Putin would target.

The spasm of repression in Burma last week similarly is not just about one country. In secret trials hidden away in fetid prisons, the ruling junta of that Southeast Asian nation of 50 million people sentenced more than 150 activists, Buddhist monks, bloggers, students and others to decades and decades in prison.

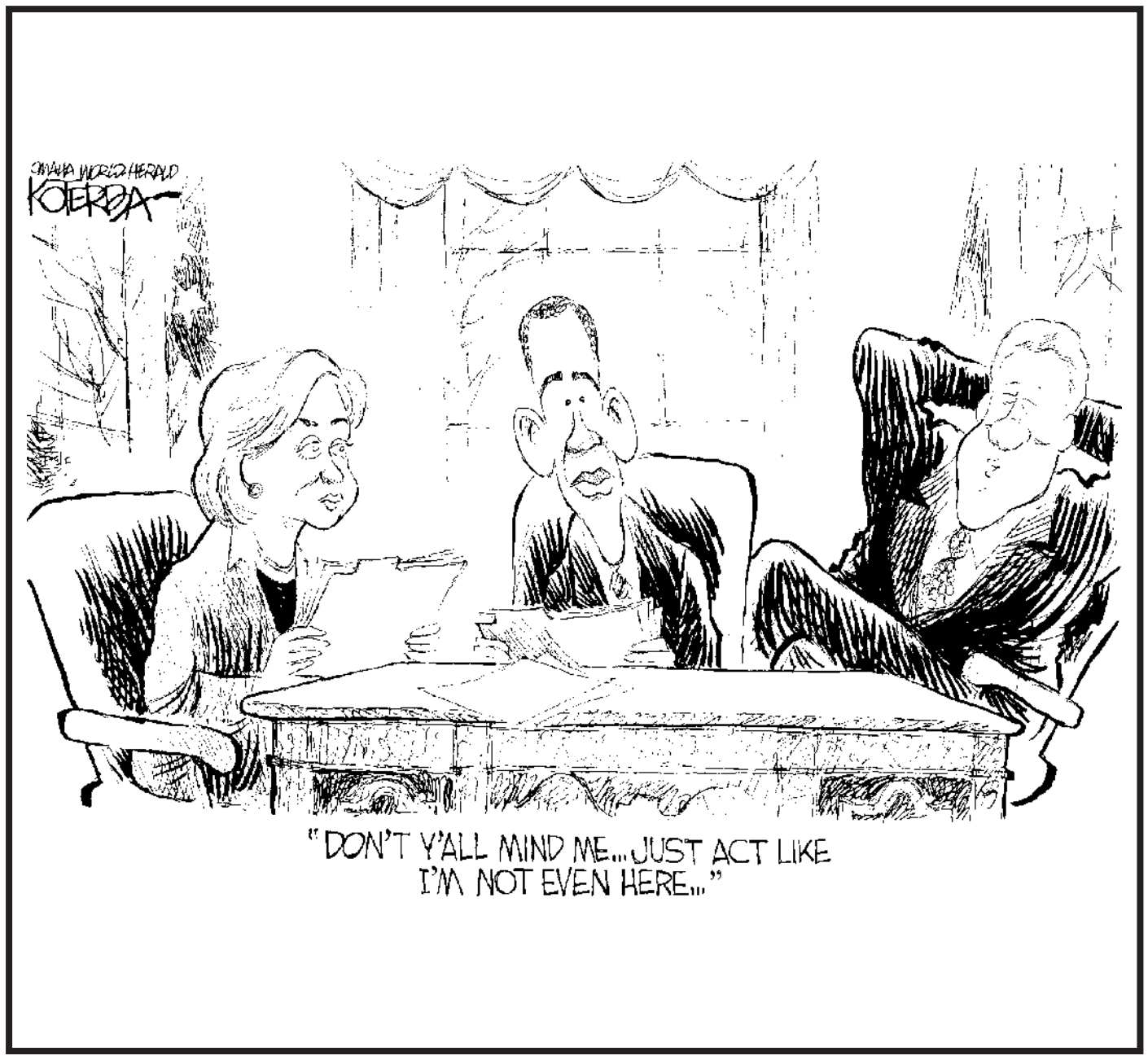
U Maung Thura, a comedian better known by his stage name of Zarganar, was sentenced to 45 years, with several charges still pending. His crime: attempting to deliver aid to victims of Cyclone Nargis last spring, when the regime did not want reminders of its own failure to help.

U Gambira, a monk who helped lead peaceful demonstrations against the regime 14 months ago, was sentenced to 68 years. A journalist was sentenced to 14 years for taking photographs during a sham referendum last spring. Lawyers have been sentenced for seeking to defend these activists and for resigning from cases when they were not permitted to mount serious defenses.

As news of these sentences spread from anguished relatives to supporters across the border and so around the world, another development was more openly announced: China's plans to proceed with a $2.5 billion pipeline to bring Burma's oil and gas to its Yunnan province. For China's Communist Party, repression in Burma is not an obstacle but a convenience, enabling the exploitation of natural resources with a minimum of well-targeted corruption.

The regime's ferocity last week, unexpected even by its dis-

See THE on Next Page



Wasted days and wasted nights

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Some of you old-timers probably remember the Freddy Fender hit that was popular in the '70s called *Wasted Days and Wasted Nights*. In the song, the late Mr. Fender lamented the futility of a jilted love affair. The title could loosely apply to the efficiency of the modern day workforce as managers lament the productivity of their employees.

In a survey of human resource managers, they assumed that employees waste 0.94 hours per day, which is what they take into account when they do their compensation planning. However, they privately suspected that workers waste 1.6 hours per day, which is 20 percent of the time.

According to a 2005 survey by American Online and Salary.com, the average American employee admits to wasting away 2.09 hours each workday—that's over one-fourth of the day. And that doesn't include lunch and scheduled break-time. To put it another way, approximately $759 billion per year is wasted on salaries for which no actual work was performed.

We're not aware of any study that has been done in the CNMI, but we would suspect that 2 hours per day would be pretty conservative; especially in government offices if you factor in arriving late, extended breaks and lunchtime, as well as those individuals who are missing in action.

Where do people waste most of their time? Industrial analysts estimate that information workers spend up to 30 percent of their time looking for data. The biggest distraction for workers, though, is surfing the Net for personal use (44.7 percent). Socializing with coworkers comes in second (23.4 percent), and conducting personal business is a distant third (6.8 percent). Just spacing out, applying for other jobs, planning personal events, and personal phone calls were some other popular time-wasting activities.

If you, as a manager or business owner, are lamenting the wasted days, your employees are not totally at fault. In a survey of employees, 33.2 percent of them cited the lack of work as their biggest reason for wasting time. This is especially true if you are a micromanager who has to have everything approved through you before someone can proceed. If employees complete their work and feel penalized for taking the initiative to do something else, then they will create busywork to keep from getting in trouble.

In another study of business productivity performance, Proudfoot Consulting of Britain revealed that 37 percent of all working time is effectively wasted. About three-fourths of this time is a result of management's poor planning or inadequate supervision of workers. Their report highlighted that even larger firms are failing in the most basic aspects of organizational efficiency. In a similar survey of 800 senior executives, they are aware of these inadequacies but have not been able to effectively deal with ineffective management and work processes, and improve worker supervision.

Another 23.4 percent of employees said they wasted their time at work because they feel underpaid. This could be a big factor here with minimum wage at $4.05 and prices skyrocketing. It's becoming more difficult to make ends meet on a meager salary, and workers may justify giving less than 100 percent because they're getting paid less than what they feel they're worth.

Co-worker distractions represent 14.7 percent of wasted time. It's estimated that the average person gets interrupted every 8 minutes, or approximately 50 to 60 times per day, and 80 percent of those interruptions are typically rated as "little value" or "no value" to the company.

The lack of productivity steals away not only time, but dollars from the bottom line. It usually results in sloppy results that create greater customer dissatisfaction, higher turnover, and lower profits. Employees who have perfected the art of wasting time tend to recruit others to pick up their practice, which then produces a "wasted days" cycle that is difficult to break.

It is critical for both employees and managers to improve their productivity by discouraging activities that are time wasters. Make sure everyone understands their responsibilities, knows the goals and objectives of the organization, has the resources to complete their work, and receives recognition for their efforts. Those who refuse to stop wasting their own time and the time of other's should be given the opportunity to pursue another career path.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Revitalizing the CNMI economy in four ways

By STEVE JANG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Steve Jang is the general manager of Rainbow Color.

There are at least four major ways in my view of the many possible or potential means the CNMI economy could be revitalized that is realistic or sound. But in order to make this achievable a lot of diligent efforts and tireless man-hours have to come into play between our governor and the legislators. In addition to this, the input of our other civic leaders such as the mayor, municipal council and leaders in our business sector and community must be acknowledged for their input, as they voice their issues and concerns affecting the economy of the CNMI. And with this in mind they may indeed come up with even better solutions.

The leaders must listen to the community and table such inputs for study should that be the answer or answers to do good for the economy. And this should be done with public hearings and a well-thought-out plan for follow through to ultimately accomplish such endeavor.

The egotistical approach and rhetoric as to who gets the credit for such idea(s) should not be the case, for a long hard battle will ensue, only to amend or put such idea in another different perspective. An example of this was when Article XII was placed as an initiative for 75 years extension. Another legislator said 80 years, then the governor said 90 years without even "battling off" the 75 years idea. I believe Rep. Hofschneider introduced the 75 years first as a resolution, but up to now nothing has happened because the other two "thought their idea is the greatest." This is a shame on our leaders and is a prime example of needless bureaucratic interference that stops things from moving and nothing is done because most of our leaders are notorious for doing such things, with no productivity at their end.

Nevertheless the following are areas or ways I believe that the economy may be revitalized:

1. Business tax structure of the CNMI has to be revisited.

The current business laws and tax structure in these areas have to be updated and provide the business sectors avenues to conduct business with lesser tax to pay in the meantime. These are taxes in areas of BGRT, room tax, and capital gains.

The "Dave Santos Law" in Guam is one that could be emulated to ease the burden on the business community. Tax breaks of some sort such as the qualifying certificate or rebates has to be provided in the meantime should the Dave Santos Law is not granted by our leaders. This would allow businesses a break before they all shut down, which will definitely result in lesser revenue for the government.

It has been proven by economists worldwide that it is small businesses that drive more of the economy—much more than is believed, as opposed to that of the big industry. Why is this? Just like in the CNMI, there are more small businesses added together that infuse more money to the government than a few hotels (only 10 big ones) put together. Small businesses are the wonders of the business world in terms of what they can do to actually put more revenue in government coffers, not to mention being the biggest employer and trainer in the economic market.

2. Abolish Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

It will stimulate growth and improve the economic base of the CNMI. It will open up revenues and employment in the construction and banking industry to include secondary markets that would be a multiplier effect because of these markets. These are areas in insurances for bonding and liability coverages and appraisals as well. Hence, the normal coverages will kick in for the long haul such as coverages for fire, typhoon, earthquake and liability as well.

Banks will provide loans for housing, housing renovation/improvements, for selling and purchasing of houses, buildings, and even for refinancing. These loans will be available for as long as they are affordable both for businesses and private individuals.

Loans will be enhanced with the acceptance for financing incorporated with the bank for Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Housing Authority, Federal National Mortgage Association, Small Business Administration and Federal Agricultural Loans, to name a few.

3. **One-stop shop**.

The government must get out of leasing buildings and make do with their own. There are government lands and buildings not being occupied such as the housing units in Garapan behind the elementary school. It is high time that the government should decentralize and start centralizing their own available resources. The government can bid out these lands for multiple leases after it drafts or comes up with a rendition of its own development plan for the area. The complex should be established as a corporation with the government in a sense where investors will develop the area into one or any combination of a mall to a service center or convention center and the government could provide tax breaks or some kind of incentives for the investors. And in this same complex the government will have its own offices to save millions of dollars in leases that they are now currently paying to the private sector. The investors will be the one to oversee the upkeep and maintenance of the complex or facilities and be credited for such for a win-win situation for both investor and government. This is also one way to revitalize the La Fiesta Mall in Matanza, San Roque.

4. **Impose real property tax and abolish Article 10, Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution**.

This will generate revenue for education, infrastructure, public health, safety, energy (CUC) and telecommunication. This is going to be a controversial issue worse than Article 12 but one sure way of increasing the government revenue so that infrastructure and the like will improve as a domino effect where the quality of life in the CNMI will eventually be improved as well.

Citizens with property who cannot afford to pay real estate taxes and Article 12 being abolished, the chances of selling or leasing the property is likely, as opposed to only trees standing on the land with no improvement and/or no revenue being generated.

Citizens must be afforded the opportunity to lease or sell their property if they cannot pay taxes at least within the first five years after the law is enacted. During this time frame, these citizens should not be assessed fees for real property tax (for the first five years) whether or not their property is leased, sold or transferred as inheritance.

It is my firm belief that should these four areas be enacted into "excellent" laws, investors will flock to CNMI to do business in all facets, such as to buy land, build a house, hotels, or buildings, improve infrastructure or simply start small businesses that will be an invaluable contributor to the economic prosperity of CNMI.

Pride and ownership is the drive or motivation of investors and this is what they look for as a lifetime commitment to self and the islands in improving its economy and that is the bottom line.

Letters to the Editor

Biased study

I read with awe and more than a bit of chagrin the recent *Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands*, prepared for the Office of the Governor. This extraordinarily dubious and biased study implies that the federalization of the CNMI minimum wage and immigration has caused instability leading to loss of investment and development, which in turn has lead to:

1) Declining revenues for health, education and general public welfare;
2) Rising poverty, falling incomes, unemployment;
3) Declining economic opportunities;
4) Rising economic dependence on the federal government;
5) Increased family and social stress;
6) Rising delinquency and crime; and
7) Fewer resources to preserve the indigenous culture.

Whew, it sure seems to me that the economy was in a tailspin long before the feds stepped in. The CNMI government has done a laudable job of causing the above problems without any help from the feds. This report uses the feds as a scapegoat, ignoring all the corruption, half-truths, lack of fiduciary responsibility and transparency, and general lack of leadership and focus by our current leaders.

This mess started way before federal intervention. In fact, it is likely that, had we worked in partnership with the federal government, many of our current problems would have been solved. Our leaders, in their paternalistic manner, seem to feel that fighting the feds and blaming it for all our social and economic ills, is more productive than admitting to past mistakes and working on a productive relationship. The local leadership has failed utterly in their responsibility to its citizens.

Blame the feds? Sure, why not? It's easier than owning up to your own shortcomings and lack of focus. Many folks on island are looking with hope to the feds coming in. Certainly they can do no worse than our local leaders have. And just maybe, they will do a heck of a lot better.

One major reason people feel that there is such outcry to the feds coming here is that a few (or many) have so much to hide. Were the feds to investigate corruption in the government, perhaps other leaders would find themselves in the same predicament as the Lt. Governor. Many on island have expressed that they would welcome federal investigation of the government.

This ludicrous report is so blatantly biased that one has to wonder if it were truly independent. Was it written for or by the Governor? The feds are coming, no matter what. The only question that remains is what will they find when they get here: a bankrupt government caused by the avarice of a few greedy good ol' boys or a government with the willingness to work with the feds for the common good?

Burn this foolish study for it lacks any credibility and is full of misdirection. And stop blaming the feds for all of our ills. If there is blame to be cast, look in the mirror. YOU have brought us to the depth of economic despair. What you do once the feds get here will make the difference between bankruptcy or an economic improvement. Choose wisely.

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

THE

From Page 10

mal standards, came as something of an embarrassment to Western humanitarian groups, which have been revving up a campaign to convince the Obama administration that Burma's regime is moderating and that engagement, rather than isolation, is the right policy. Supporters of engagement argue that it helps neither the United States nor the long-suffering people of Burma to leave the field to the Chinese.

This may be true. But public opinion and, we trust, a sense of self-respect will never permit the United States to outbid China for the junta's affections. And in Burma, unlike in many dictatorships, there is a clear alternative authority: the National League for Democracy, which overwhelmingly won an election two decades ago. The regime negated the results, and the league's leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has been under house arrest for most of the time since. Like Nelson Mandela in his long years of imprisonment, she remains the legitimate leader of her people. Like South Africans, Burmese will remember who sided with her during their years of oppression and who sided with the oppressor. And as the world watched and measured America's shifting stance on apartheid, so it will measure the next administration's commitment to democracy in Burma and beyond.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Clarification

In a story published yesterday about LaoLao, it was mentioned that the current lease with LaoLao does not obligate the company to support the Kagman Community.

As president of the Kagman Community Association, I disagree. The following are examples of how Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort has contributed to the Kagman community:

1. Free use of the driving range every Thursday for Kagman High School PE class.

2. Clean up and maintaining the grass for half a mile outside of LaoLao so that pedestrians can enjoy their walks.

3. Donation of three golf carts, one for each of the three Kagman schools.

4. LaoLao employee team voluntarily doing cleanups on the roads.

5. Family Fun Day every May, opening the golf course to the public, offering plenty of games and seminars for children, working together with the Division of Fish & Wildlife and DEQ to provide public awareness.

6. Opening the golf course free of charge for Diabetic Coalition fundraising walkathon.

7. Jobs for Kagman residents

8. Participation in beach cleanups

9. Participation in Halloween fundraisers

Jesse D. Torres
KKA president

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

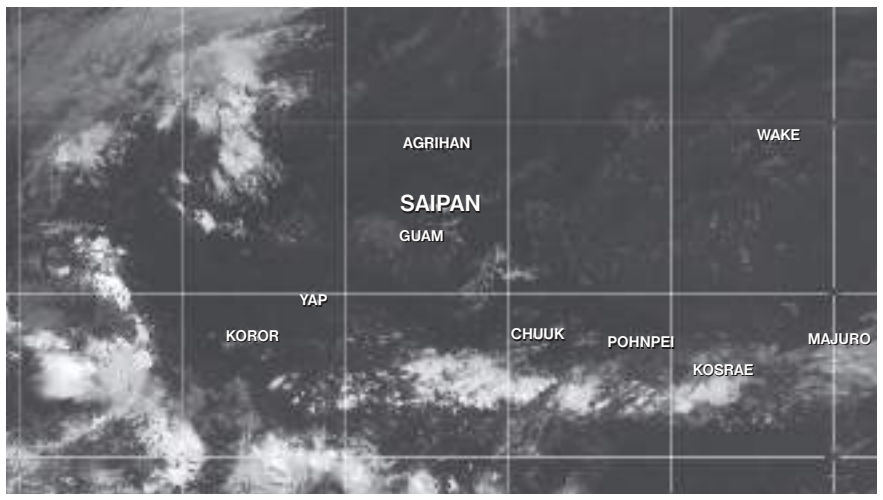
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲69	▼57
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼25
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲52	▼39
Los Angeles	Showers	▲66	▼52
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲79	▼67
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼60
New York	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼38
Osaka	Rain	▲62	▼38
Paris	Cloudy	▲43	▼37
Pusan	Rain	▲51	▼31
Rome	Sunny	▲53	▼41
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼38
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼50
Seoul	Rain	▲41	▼22
Tokyo	Rain	▲55	▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:30PM, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area at 25N150E and extends southwestward to 22N141E then turns into a stationary front to beyond 130E at 19N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are present along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary including Iwo To island. Converging winds south of the cold front are triggering scattered showers over the northern tip of the CNMI and Minamitori Shima within 70 miles of a line from 17N138E to 25N154E. Low-level convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Palau and southeastward to southwest of Chuuk or south of a line from 5N130E to 9N136E to 4N144E to 6N150E. A low-level trough runs east-northeastward from eq150E to 4N158E then turns northward to 8N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis south of Chuuk but over Pohnpei or south of a line from 6N150E to 10N158E to 3N163E. A mid to upper-level trough reaches northeastward from 1N165E through a mid to upper low centered just northeast of Majuro at 10N173E to beyond 180 at 14N aided by trade-wind convergence. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen over Kosrae and eastward to south and east of Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 4N162E to 4N170E to 7N175E. Similar conditions also exist near the dateline between 3N and 12N from 175E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:20AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:28AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:41PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:19PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:25AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:27AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:27AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:55AM	4:27PM
Thursday	5:47AM	5:12 PM
Friday	6:40AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	7:32AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	9:09AM	8:34 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Island Snapshots

ECHO COMPANY BRIEFING
Members of Echo Company 100th Battalion families residing on Tinian hold a briefing and meeting at the JC Cafe Restaurant on Nov. 16, 2008. The meeting was coordinated by Joan Aldan, second from right.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT
Happy birthday greetings go out to Aimz. Greetings come from her friends, her daughter, and her loving husband.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Kaleolani J. Kani, who will be celebrating her birthday tomorrow, Nov. 28. "Wishing you a fabulous day!" Greetings from grandpa/grandma, your big sis, Lani, and the rest of the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Kane S. Kani! "Wishing you a wonderful day! We love and miss you so much!" Greetings from your daddy, grandpa and grandma and the rest of the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS
Speakers of the workplace harassment workshop pose for the camera Tuesday at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room . From left, PSS legal counsels Kelly Bucher and Karen Klaver and Headstart director Keiko Yamagata.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PARENT READERS
Parents of Garapan Headstart students show off their certificates of accomplishment for the school's Motheread/Fatheread program held last Thursday at the Garapan Headstart campus.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GUAM GUIDE MAGAZINE
Guam USO director Leigh Graham displays the Only On Guam Guide-Magazine at the Guam USO headquarters in the Royal Orchid Hotel, Tumon. The Guam USO and A3 Ink, Corp. have partnered to bring to the island's military and newcomer populations this valuable resource for learning about and exploring Guam.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Emergency Management Office held a workshop on tsunami and earthquake disaster preparedness for all Headstart staff Tuesday morning at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AYUYU BATTALION DONATION
Kagman High School's JRTOC cadets once again show their giving spirit by conducting the annual holiday food drive. KHS cadets have been collecting canned goods for several months to donate to the Karidat Foundation for needy families on Saipan for Thanksgiving. There are over 500 food items and two 15-lb turkeys with a total value over $300. The cadets are, from left, C/MAJ Bofan Cabrera, C/SFC Manuel Cabrera, C/MAJ Christian Aguon, C/MAJ Jessica Babauta, C/CPL Christian Yamada, and C/CPT Tricia Laborce
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RE-ENLISTMENT RITES
Sgt. Deynarose Apatang Sunderland is sworn into service for another six years during a re-enlistment ceremony held in Iraq. She is shown here being sworn in by Maj. Hardy. The soldiers holding the flag are MSG Manning and MSG Cook. Sunderland is currently with the 4th Infantry Division from Ft. Hood, Texas. She joined the U.S. Army in 2000. She went to basic training in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and received her AIT in Ft. Gordon, Georgia where she was a Distinguished graduate. Her next duty station when she gets back from Iraq is Virginia. She is the daughter of Rep. David Apatang (U.S. Army retired) and Tonie Apatang.

Business

Paulson pulling more tricks to bolster US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the economy showing further signs that it is headed into a steep swoon, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is pulling more tricks out of his bag to try bolster the country's battered financial sector.

The administration and the Federal Reserve rolled out two new programs Tuesday that would provide up to $800 billion in an effort to get more loans flowing in such critical areas as mortgage lending, credit cards, auto loans and small business loans.

Credit markets liked the new efforts, but private economists said the new moves were not likely to be the last changes in the government's vast rescue program, which has already undergone significant alterations since it was passed by Congress on Oct. 3.

Analysts believe more work will need to be done because of their expectations that the economy's vital signs will continue to worsen as the country slips into what many believe could be the worst recession since the early 1980s.

More news on economic performance will be revealed Wednesday with release of data on personal spending, orders to factories for big-ticket durable goods, new home sales and weekly applications for unemployment benefits.

The report on jobless claims is expected to show that applications for benefits fell slightly last week to 537,000, according to a survey of economists by Thomson Reuters. That would be down by 5,000 from the previous week when claims hit 542,000, the highest level for weekly claims since July 1992. Even with the tiny drop, analysts said claims remain at levels indicating severe stress on the labor market.

The unemployment rate has hit a 14-year high of 6.5 percent, putting pressure on personal incomes, with income growth expected to be a modest 0.1 percent for November, according to the Thomson Reuters survey. These Wall Street economists are expecting that consumer spending plunged by 0.9 percent in October, a dismal showing that would follow a period of extended weakness.

AP

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson appears on a television as a trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday Nov. 25, 2008.

Obama: Economic rescue will trump deficit fight

CHICAGO (AP)—The economy growing weaker, President-elect Barack Obama said Tuesday that recovery efforts will trump deficit concerns when he takes office in January. Yet he pledged a "page-by-page, line-by-line" budget review to root out unneeded spending.

The president-elect set no goals for reducing the federal deficit—now in record territory and headed ever higher—an obvious contrast to Monday's announcement that he hopes to create a recession-busting 2.5 million jobs by 2010.

He spoke as he appointed Peter Orszag, currently head of the Congressional Budget Office, to be his own budget director.

Obama's comments came at his second news conference in as many days, an unusual pre-inaugural burst of activity that he said reflected "the extraordinary circumstances" he will inherit on Jan. 20.

With his Electoral College landslide victory, Obama said he possesses a "mandate to move the country in a new direction, and not continue the same old practices that have gotten us into the fix we're in."

At the same time, the Democratic president-elect pledged to consult with Republicans and approach his administration with humility "and a recognition that wisdom is not the monopoly of any one party."

Obama's promise to be careful with a federal buck was placed in a larger context.

Most Asian markets rise after US extends gains

HONG KONG (AP)—Most Asian stock markets rose Wednesday after Wall Street extended its gains, but Japanese shares lagged the region as leading automaker Toyota Motor Corp. saw its top-notch credit rating cut.

Investors snapped up a number of resource companies after Australia's BHP Billiton Ltd., the world's biggest mining company, abandoned its hostile takeover bid for rival Rio Tinto Ltd. The multibillion dollar takeover bid had spurred worries among steelmakers that the combined company could unfairly influence prices.

Throughout the region, there were signs that confidence was returning to the markets as investors took solace in Wall Street's first triple-session advance in more than two months. Investors seem to be taking some heart from measures to stimulate the U.S. economy by aiding consumer lending companies, analysts said.

"We're still moving into a recession, but a lot has happened to limit its depth and duration so the markets are clearly more optimistic," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist for CFC Seymour in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index climbed 439.74 points, or 3.4 percent, to 13,318.34, while South Korea's Kospi jumped 4.3 percent to 1,026.54.

Markets in Singapore, mainland China, Taiwan and the Philippines also gained.

Thai stocks were down after the country's main international airport canceled all flights as thousands of protesters swarmed the complex in efforts to bring down the government, stranding tourists and dealing a blow to the country's already-fragile tourism industry. The benchmark SET index was down 1.6 percent at 385.41.

Congress expecting more sacrifices from automakers

DETROIT (AP)—A list of job cuts, shuttered factories, canceled bonuses and commitments to fuel-efficient cars won't be enough next week when U.S. automakers get another shot to persuade Congress to give them $25 billion in loans.

Through the Thanksgiving weekend, teams will be tagging more meat to throw at skeptical lawmakers who vilified the automakers' top executives the last time they went to Washington. That means executive pay cuts, union concessions, and perhaps even higher fuel economy requirements and a glimpse at top-secret product plans.

At General Motors Corp., the largest of the Detroit Three and probably the most needy, teams are preparing a detailed plan, first for GM's board on Monday, then for delivery to Congress by a Dec. 2 deadline. The House Financial Services Committee plans to hear testimony on the loan requests Dec. 5.

Steve Adamske, a spokesman for committee chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., said Tuesday that each company is expected to submit a report that will be made public to "give confidence to the people that we're not giving good money after bad."

People with knowledge of the plans being built by GM and Chrysler say they will contain more than just details of past restructuring. At GM, the company has slashed production and cut its U.S. payroll from 177,000 eight years ago to the current 104,000. Chrysler LLC's worldwide work force has been slashed from 123,180 10 years ago to about 66,000 today.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FDIC's list of 'problem' banks swells to 171

NEW YORK (AP)—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Tuesday the list of banks it considers to be in trouble shot up nearly 50 percent to 171 during the third quarter—yet another sign of escalating problems among the institutions controlling Americans' deposits. The 171 banks on the FDIC's "problem list" encompass only about 2 percent of the nearly 8,500 FDIC-insured institutions. Still, the increase from 117 in the second quarter is sharp, and the current tally is the highest since late 1995. "We've had profound problems in our financial markets that are taking a rising toll on the real economy," said FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair in a statement, adding that Tuesday's report "reflects these challenges." Banks across the country have been hurt—and in some cases, devastated—by the collapse of the subprime mortgage market and subsequent problems across the lending spectrum. As the FDIC report shows, the number of hobbled institutions is rising at a quickening pace, a trend that has already begun to reshape the banking industry.

Oil steady near $51 after falling overnight

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices were steady near $51 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as investors weighed more bad economic news from the U.S. that sparked a sell-off of crude overnight. Light, sweet crude for January delivery was up 34 cents to $51.12 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract overnight fell $3.73 to settle at $50.77 after the U.S. said its gross domestic product shrank 0.5 percent in the third quarter, which was worse than previously estimated. Slowing global economic activity has spurred corporate losses and job cuts, undermining demand for fuels to power industry and cars. Meanwhile, plunging U.S. home and stock prices have gutted personal wealth and hurt consumer demand.

Fannie Mae names Johnson chief financial officer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fannie Mae said Tuesday it named David Johnson to serve as the mortgage giant's chief financial officer and executive vice president, beginning immediately. Johnson joins the company from Hartford Financial Services Group, where he served as chief financial officer and executive vice president. His predecessor at Fannie Mae, Stephen Swad, left the company in August and was temporarily replaced by David C. Hisey, formerly Fannie's senior vice president and controller. Hisey will stay on in his role as executive vice president and deputy chief financial officer. Hisey joined Fannie Mae in January 2005 as senior vice president and controller. Incoming CFO Johnson has previously held the post at Cendant Corp. and also worked in the investment banking unit at Merrill Lynch.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	3,479.600 Down 95.800 (-2.68%)
HONG KONG	13,206.93 Up 328.33 (+2.55%)
JAKARTA	1,189.7 Up 35.559 (+3.08%)
TOKYO	8,213.22 Down 110.71 (-1.33%)
K. LUMPUR	860.18 Up 4.79 (+0.56%)
MANILA	1,932.91 Up 24.73 (+1.30%)
SINGAPORE	1,667.96 Up 14.71 (+0.89%)
SEOUL	1,029.78 Up 46.46 (+4.72%)
BANGKOK	384.09 Down 7.76 (-1.98%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	8,479.47 +36.08
NASDAQ	1,464.73 -7.29
S&P	857.39 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.5513
British Pound	0.6513
Canadian Dollar	1.2277
Chinese Renmbi	6.8281
Euro	0.7707
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7551
Indian Rupee	49.775
Indonesian Rupiah	12500
Japanese Yen	94.85
Malaysian Ringgit	3.6195
New Zealand Dollar	1.8282
Philippine Peso	49.25
Singapore Dollar	1.5129
South Korean Won	1478.8
Swiss Franc	1.1902
Taiwan Dollar	33.242
Thailand Baht	35.315

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Officials: Obama to ask Gates to stay at Pentagon

CHICAGO (AP)—Seeking experience in wartime, President-elect Barack Obama intends to re-enlist Defense Secretary Robert Gates as head of the Pentagon—if only temporarily—and has chosen a retired Marine general to be White House national security adviser, officials said Tuesday.

Gates and retired Gen. James Jones would bring decades of experience to the administration of a 47-year-old commander in chief who campaigned on a pledge to redeploy combat troops in Iraq within 16 months while simultaneously ramping up the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan.

While Gates has accepted Obama's appointment, it was not clear that Jones had done the same.

Obama also has also offered the post of secretary of state to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton

Gates

of New York, his rival in the campaign for the White House. Officials have not yet disclosed whether she has decided to give up her seat in Congress to join the Cabinet.

Whatever Clinton's decision, aides to the president-elect say he intends to announce members of his national security team next week, after disclosing his top economic advisers in recent days.

Gates, who has served as President George W. Bush's defense secretary for two years, will remain in the Cabinet for some time, probably a year, according to an official familiar with discussions between him and the president-elect. His appointment would fulfill an Obama pledge to include a Republican in his Cabinet.

A Democratic official said Jones was Obama's pick to head the National Security Council, the part of the White House structure that deals with foreign policy.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Obama has not authorized anybody to discuss the developments.

Obama's search for intelligence officials was less clear. John Brennan, who had been considered a top pick for CIA director, withdrew his name from consideration. He cited a groundswell of criticism about his association with the Bush administration's sanctioning of harsh interrogations of terror suspects.

Former Adm. Dennis Blair has emerged as a likely candidate for director of national intelligence, which oversees CIA and other intelligence agencies.

Retaining Gates provides stability for a stretched military fighting two wars during the changeover in administrations. Gates once said it was inconceivable that he would stay on past the close of Bush's term on Jan. 20.

But the 65-year-old former spymaster had recently turned mum in public on the circumstances under which he would stay, even briefly, in an Obama administration.

Keeping Gates might afford Obama a sort of extended transition, in which critical military issues are left in trusted hands while Obama focuses most intensely on the financial crisis.

Lieberman: Obama 'about perfect' in Cabinet picks

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman took another step Tuesday toward mending his relationship with Democrats, saying that Barack Obama's actions since winning the presidency have been "just about perfect."

"Everything that President-elect Obama has done since election night has been just about perfect, both in terms of a tone and also in terms of the strength of the names that have either been announced or are being discussed to fill his administration," Lieberman said during a visit to Hartford.

Lieberman, the Democratic nominee for vice president in 2000, was re-elected to the Senate in 2006 as an independent but continues to caucus with Democrats. He supported Republican John McCain's presidential campaign, going as far as to criticize Obama and make a speech at the Republican National Convention.

Democrats threatened to strip him of his chairmanship of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee but instead removed him as head of a smaller environmental subcommittee.

Connecticut Democrats meet Dec. 17 and are still considering a possible censure of Lieberman for his actions during the presidential campaign.

"I will ask them to judge me by my record," Lieberman said. "Generally speaking, I've had a record, a voting record, which is really ultimately what it's about, not unlike most Democrats."

ACROSS THE NATION

Prosecutor: Man confesses to NJ church killings

MONROE, Ga. (AP)—A man accused of gunning down his estranged wife and a man in a New Jersey church told authorities Tuesday in a videotaped confession that he would've killed everyone in the building if he'd had a machine gun, a Georgia prosecutor said. Joseph Pallipurath, 27, admitted to Sunday's shooting rampage, which also seriously wounded a third person, hours after he surrendered peacefully at a Georgia motel, Walton County Assistant District Attorney Eric Crawford said. "He was very emotional and very animated during the course of the interview," Crawford said. "The impression I got was he was waiting to talk to somebody and tell his side of the story." Pallipurath told authorities he believed church members were blocking his attempts to contact his wife, who had left him three months ago, Crawford said. The prosecutor added that Pallipurath didn't apologize or express remorse for the shootings.

Miami judge rules against Florida gay adoption ban

MIAMI (AP)—A judge on Tuesday ruled that a strict Florida law that blocks gay people from adopting children is unconstitutional, declaring there was no legal or scientific reason for sexual orientation alone to prohibit anyone from adopting. Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Cindy Lederman said the 31-year-old law violates equal protection rights for the children and their prospective gay parents, rejecting the state's arguments that there is "a supposed dark cloud hovering over homes of homosexuals and their children." She noted that gay people are allowed to be foster parents in Florida. "There is no rational basis to prohibit gay parents from adopting," she wrote in a 53-page ruling. Florida is the only state with an outright ban on gay adoption. Arkansas voters last month approved a measure similar to a law in Utah that bans any unmarried straight or gay couples from adopting or fostering children. Mississippi bans gay couples, but not single gays, from adopting. The ruling means that Martin Gill, 47, and his male partner can adopt two brothers, ages 4 and 8, whom he has cared for as foster children since December 2004.

Mich. police: 3 girls found safe after mom slain

SAGINAW, Mich. (AP)—Three young girls whose disappearances set off a nationwide Amber Alert after their mother was discovered slain at their home were found safe Tuesday, authorities said. A tip from a motorist who heard the alert led Michigan state police to a car in which the girls and their father were riding around noon, authorities said. "The children are all safe and well," said Saginaw police Lt. Tammy Luty. She said the father was in custody and was questioned but had not been charged with a crime; he can be held for at least two days without charges being filed. Saginaw police found the body of Erica Olguin, 32, at her Saginaw home Monday after she failed to pick up her 11-year-old son at school. Authorities said Tuesday they hadn't determined the exact cause of her death, but Police Chief Gerald Cliff said it was a homicide.

Study: Math teachers a chapter ahead of students

WASHINGTON (AP)—Math can be hard enough, but imagine the difficulty when a teacher is just one chapter ahead of the students. It happens, and it happens more often to poor and minority students. Those children are about twice as likely to have math teachers who don't know their subject, according to a report by the Education Trust, a children's advocacy group.

Studies show the connection between teachers' knowledge and student achievement is particularly strong in math.

"Individual teachers matter a tremendous amount in how much students learn," said Ross Wiener, who oversees policy issues at the organization.

The report looked at teachers with neither an academic major nor certification in the subjects they teach.

Among the findings, which were based on Education Department data:

■ In high-poverty schools, two in five math classes have teachers without a college major or certification in math.

■ In schools with a greater share of African-American and Latino children, nearly one in three math classes is taught by such a teacher.

May our families continue to receive
God's blessings all year round.
A Bountiful Thanksgiving To One And All
From the management and staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Asia

Protesters enter empty control tower

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's main international airport canceled all flights Wednesday as protesters thronged the complex in efforts to bring down the government, stranding thousands of tourists and buffeting the country's already-fragile tourism industry.

The airport takeover was one of the boldest gambles yet by the People's Alliance for Democracy in its four-month campaign to topple Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, whom it accuses of being the puppet of a disgraced fugitive predecessor, billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra.

Exhausted travelers tried to sleep on suitcases, on luggage carts, on security conveyer belts, behind vacated check-in counters. Protesters dressed in yellow shirts walked around distributing food, ham sandwiches and packets of rice.

"We'd rather they just go home so we can go home," said Kay Spitler, 58, from Glendale, Arizona.

Cheryl Turner, 63, of Scottsdale, Arizona, needed to get home to cook a feast for her family Thursday for the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving. She said she had instructed her neighbors to pull a turkey from her freezer a day ahead of time.

"My turkey is sitting in the sink at home," she said.

The alliance vowed to bring its campaign to a final showdown this week, and violence has spiked, including streets clashes between supporters and opponents of the government Tuesday that included the first open use of firearms by the anti-government protesters. Police said 11 government supporters were injured, some with gunshot wounds.

Early Wednesday, assailants threw four explosives at anti-government protesters, including one targeting a group about a half-mile (1 kilometer) from Bangkok's main international Suvarnabhumi Airport.

AP

Anti government protesters in front of the departure terminal at Suvarnabhumi airport, Bangkok in the early hours of Wednesday Nov. 26, 2008.

Official: Indian navy mistakenly sank Thai trawler

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A suspected pirate vessel that was destroyed by the Indian navy last week near Somalia was actually a Thai fishing trawler that had been hijacked by pirates, a maritime official said Wednesday.

Noel Choong, who heads the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur, said one Thai crew member died when the Indian frigate INS Tabar fired on the boat in the Gulf of Aden on Nov. 18.

Fourteen others are missing and a Cambodian sailor was rescued four days later by passing fishermen, he said. The IMB received a report on the apparent mistake late Tuesday from Bangkok-based Sirichai Fisheries, which owned the Ekawat Nava5 vessel, he said.

"The Indian navy assumed it was a pirate vessel because they may have seen armed pirates on board the boat which has been hijacked earlier," Choong said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: NKorea's Kim Jong Il tours soap factory

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's Kim Jong Il paid visits to machinery and soap-making factories, state media reported Tuesday, the latest in a series of dispatches in recent weeks about public appearances by a leader believed to be recovering from a stroke. Kim's health is of keen interest because he rules the isolated, nuclear-armed nation with absolute authority and has not publicly named a successor. Speculation about Kim's health comes at a time of increased tension on the peninsula, with the North taking steps to restrict cross-border traffic in retaliation for the new Seoul's government stance toward Pyongyang. The 66-year-old Kim provided "field guidance" at factories in the western city of Sinuiju on the border with China, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said. KCNA did not provide an exact date for the visits but said Kim praised the machinery factory for fulfilling its assignments for this year "as of the end of October."

Afghan teacher wants acid thrown on her attackers

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A 23-year-old teacher burned in an acid attack on 15 schoolgirls and instructors wants the Afghan government to throw acid on her attackers and then hang them. Kandahar's governor said Tuesday that authorities had arrested 10 alleged Taliban militants for the Nov. 12 attack in this southern city and that several confessed to taking part. Gov. Rahmatullah Raufi said the men would be tried in open court, a pledge that pleased Nuskaal, a first-year math teacher who suffered acid burns on her shoulders. "Those girls were simply going to school to get an education," said Nuskaal, who like many Afghans goes by one name. "My parents told me that security isn't good enough and that they were worried about me teaching. But I told my parents I won't stop teaching. I'm not afraid." After the attack, President Hamid Karzai called for the perpetrators to be executed in public. Nuskaal said the attackers should have acid thrown on them first.

Sri Lanka army: Rebels fleeing northern stronghold

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Sri Lankan government says its forces are on the outskirts of the Tamil Tiger stronghold of Kilinochchi after days of heavy fighting with the rebels. Defense spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella says the rebels appear to be retreating Wednesday from their de facto capital in the north. He implied the town is likely to be captured imminently. The capture of Kilinochchi would be a major blow to the separatist group, which has been engaged in fierce fighting with government forces in recent months.

World

Sunni might withhold support for US pact

BAGHDAD (AP)—A leader of the largest Sunni Arab bloc in parliament hinted he might withhold support for a proposed pact that would allow American troops to stay in Iraq through 2011, making it difficult for the Shiite-led government to win the big victory it needs in Wednesday's vote.

A comfortable parliamentary majority would ensure the legitimacy of an agreement that sets a clear timetable for U.S. withdrawal after years of war and could lead to full sovereignty for Iraq.

But intense debate and backroom dealing continued over the pact, which has supporters and detractors from both Sunni and Shiite communities jockeying for political gain ahead of provincial and general elections next year.

"The national division over the agreement is very clear," said Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, who leads one of three parties in a Sunni bloc called the Iraqi Accordance Front. "Consensus appears to be very difficult, if not impossible," he said Tuesday.

Al-Hashemi is a member of a Sunni bloc that seeks a national referendum on the U.S.-Iraqi security pact and other concessions in exchange for its support for the agreement, a position that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has described as political blackmail.

Even if parliament passes the deal—only the barest of majorities would do the trick—it faces an additional hurdle because the three-man Presidential Council, which includes al-Hashemi, must then ratify it. Each of the three has veto power.

Another obstacle is that if the agreement passes with a narrow majority, it could prompt the country's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, to express his dissatisfaction publicly. That would likely sink the deal.

Al-Sistani is revered by Iraq's majority Shiites. He has indicated that the agreement was less than ideal but would not object if it passes by a comfortable majority.

If the deal is finally approved, it would set in motion an American withdrawal that could be accelerated if President-elect Barack Obama makes good on a plan to pull out all combat troops within 16 months of moving into the White House in January.

But the Iraqi government has struggled to win over skeptical lawmakers, who see an easy political target in an agreement negotiated with a foreign government that has forces on Iraqi soil. Debate in parliament degenerated into scuffles last week, and Iraqi leaders have delivered increasingly dire warnings about the security and economic threats to Iraq if the deal does not pass.

U.S. forces are currently operating under a U.N. mandate that expires Dec. 31. If the security pact is rejected and the U.N. mandate is not renewed, American forces would be confined to their bases, leaving Iraqi troops to fend for themselves in a country where security concerns have hampered development.

German family granted Australian residency

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Australia's immigration minister has granted permanent residency to a German family whose application was twice denied because their 13-year-old son has Down syndrome.

Immigration Minister Chris Evans overturned the decisions of his department Wednesday, saying Bernhard Moeller and his family were making a valuable contribution to their community. Moeller moved to rural Australia along with his family more than two years ago to help fill a doctor shortage there.

"Their continued presence in Australia will be beneficial to our society," Evans said in a Senate speech. "I'm pleased they have chosen to call Australia home."

Moeller's initial application was rejected by the department on the grounds that his son's Down syndrome would be a significant cost to Australia. His application to a review tribunal was also rejected, and he appealed to Evans on Tuesday.

WORLD BRIEFS

Greenlanders vote on expanding autonomy

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Greenlanders braved the gloom of polar night to vote Tuesday on whether to seek more autonomy from Denmark, amid growing speculation that this barren Arctic island may be sitting on oil reserves. The referendum is non-binding but a "yes" would be a key step toward independence for the territory, which relies on Danish subsidies to sustain its economy in one of the world's most hostile environments. The small, mostly Inuit, population is voting on a proposal to give Greenland its own police force, courts of law and coast guard and to make Greenlandic, an Inuit tongue, the official language. Most importantly, it would set new rules on how to split potential oil revenue between Greenland and Denmark. Greenlanders hope to find reserves off the western and southern coast of the glacial island, although exploration so far has been unsuccessful.

Pirates move Saudi supertanker farther from coast

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somali pirates have taken their greatest prize—a Saudi supertanker with $100 million of crude oil—farther offshore in what appears to be a rare defensive move following threats by Islamic insurgents. The pirates have dominated Somalia's high seas for the past year, bringing in some $30 million in ransom despite stepped up international efforts to fight them including foreign warships guarding the waters. But the Nov. 15 hijacking of the Sirius Star was the pirates' most audacious to date and prompted threats from Somali extremists. Last Friday, Islamic fighters promised to fight the pirates and free the ship because it was Muslim-owned and flagged under Saudi Arabia. Two days later, pirates moved the ship about 28 miles (45 kilometers), putting it about 30 miles (50 kilometers) off the coast of the coastal village of Harardhere. The fighters said they represented al-Shabab—the Islamic group waging a deadly insurgency in Somalia—but the group's leadership denied that Tuesday, saying the threats were not from the group's official spokesman.

Bin Laden's ex-driver to finish sentence in Yemen

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A former driver for Osama bin Laden was transferred from Guantanamo Bay to his homeland of Yemen to serve out the remaining 32 days of his sentence, the Pentagon said Tuesday. Salim Hamdan, the first man to go before a U.S. war crimes trial since the end of World War II, was flown from the U.S. Navy base in Cuba to Yemen. Hamdan was convicted on Aug. 6 of providing material support to terrorism, and the military said it could keep him locked up indefinitely if it considered him to be a continued threat. Instead, he was sent home early. A Pentagon official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter, said the decision was made by the White House. Hamdan was sentenced at the war-crimes trial to 5 1/2 years in prison. Being credited with five years and one month for time already served means his sentence ends on Dec. 27, according to the Pentagon.

Environment

Say no to plastic bags this holiday season

CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach

It may not seem as though you are contributing to the waste stream for using a plastic bag each time you shop for groceries, but you are. Sometimes, grocers go bag crazy and end up giving you a bag per item. You can control this.

Reduce the amount of trash you generate, but simply saying "no thanks" for plastic bags. Why? Here are some reasons:

According to US EPA, the average family uses 1,000 plastic bags each year. In the CNMI, there are approximately 14,807 households* using 1,000 bags in a year, which means that 14.8 million plastic bags end up in our landfill.

The bags that do not end up at the landfill are found on the beach, roadsides or worse, in the ocean.

Plastic bags do not decompose. It takes approximately 400 to 1,000 years for the sun to break down the plastic into smaller and smaller pieces. These pieces can be mistaken for food by wild life. In the water the bags look like jellyfish and are eaten, causing choking and sometimes entanglement. Millions of animals are killed each year by plastic bags. When an animal eats the plastic, it cannot digest it, so the toxins in the plastic remain, which humans can then ingest when they eat the animal.

Plastic bag practices around the world

The United States and other countries are moving toward a ban or tax on plastic bags. San Francisco was the first city to ban plastic shopping bags in 2007, followed by Los Angeles. Since then, hundreds of cities have also implemented or considered bans or taxes in order to reduce plastic bags.

The first country to introduce a bag tax was Ireland. Consumers are charged 15 cents per bag at check out. China banned free plastic bags last summer. Taiwan, Bangladesh and South Africa prohibit the use of plastic bags.

Other island nations have also implemented plastic bag reduction campaigns. American Samoa has initiated legislation to ban fossil-fueled based plastic shopping bags. The Republic of the Palau has considered an excise tax on plastic bags.

Invest in a reusable bag

Reusable bags need only be used eleven times to make a positive environmental impact. Each reusable bag has the potential to eliminate an average of 1,000 plastic bags over its lifetime, according to reusablebags.com.

In the long run, reusable bags save money, extends the life of the landfill. Most reusable bags are sturdier and can carry larger loads of groceries.

Sources: resuablebags.com, epa.gov, CNMI Department of Commerce 2005 Household, Income, and Expenditures Survey

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bringing your own bag can help save resources and reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

E-cycling your e-wastes

CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach

E-wastes are consumer electronics, such as TVs, video equipment, computers, keyboards, and phones. They make up a small percentage in the waste stream, but their quantity is steadily increasing as more are replaced with newer, faster gadgets.

Electronic products are made from valuable resources, such as precious and other metals, plastics, and glass, all of which require energy to mine and manufacture them. Reusing and recycling these materials from end-of-life electronics conserves our natural resources and avoids air and water pollution, as well as greenhouse gas emissions that are caused by manufacturing new products.

There are many benefits to e-cycling:

Conserves natural resources. Recycling recovers valuable materials from old electronics that can be used to make new products. As a result, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, save energy, and save resources by extracting fewer raw materials from the earth.

Protects your surroundings. Safe recycling of outdated electronics promotes sound management of toxic chemicals such as lead and mercury.

Helps others. Donating your used electronics benefits your community by passing on ready-to-use or refurbished equipment to those who need it.

E-wastes are consumer electronics, such as TVs, video equipment, computers, keyboards, and phones.

However, before you recycle it, look into donating your older electronics first. Prior to donating, make sure the recipient will be able to use it and make minor upgrades or repairs.

Recycling vs Disposal

Of the 2.25 million tons of TVs, cell phones and computer products ready for end-of-life (EOL) management, 18 percent (414,000 tons) was collected for recycling and 82 percent (1.84 million tons) was disposed of, primarily in landfills.

	Generated (million of units)	Disposed (million of units)	Recycled (million of units)	Recycling Rate (by weight)
Televisions	26.9	20.6	6.3	18%
Computer Products*	205.5	157.3	48.2	18%
Cell Phones	140.3	126.3	14.0	10%

*Computer products include CPUs, monitors, notebooks, keyboards, mice, and hard copy peripherals.

From 1999 through 2005, recycling rate was relatively constant at about 15 percent. During these years, the amount of electronics recycled increased but the percentage did not because the amount of electronics sent for end of life management increased each year as well.

For 2006-2007, the recycling rate increased to 18 percent, possibly because several states have started mandatory collection and recycling programs for electronics.

Almost all of the materials used to manufacture a cell phone can be recovered to make new products. Metals, plastics, batteries and the packaging materials can be recycled and turned into new products.

Cell phones contain a number of different metals—gold, silver, platinum, palladium, rhodium, copper, tin, lead, brass and zinc—that can be extracted and recovered in the recycling process. The recovered metals can be used by a number of different industries such as jewelry, plating, electronics, plumbing, automotive, and art foundries. Products that can be manufactured from the recovered materials include automotive catalytic converters, plumbing faucets and piping, and gold or silver jewelry.

The plastic on the cell phone can also be recycled. It can be recycled into new products as garden furniture, license plate frames, non-food containers and replacement automotive parts. Due to its high thermal value, the plastic could alternatively be used as a fuel.

The cell phone packaging materials can also be recycled and made as a component of fiber board manufacture. When the rechargeable battery can no longer be reused, the battery can be recycled into other rechargeable battery products. ***(CoCo)***

Source: www.epa.gov/e-Cycling

Exploring Aerosol

It's All Metal

Concerned about how to dispose of aerosol cans? Well, over 90 percent are made of steel and the rest are aluminum, which are both highly recyclable metals. If the can is empty, you can recycle it with the rest of your metals.

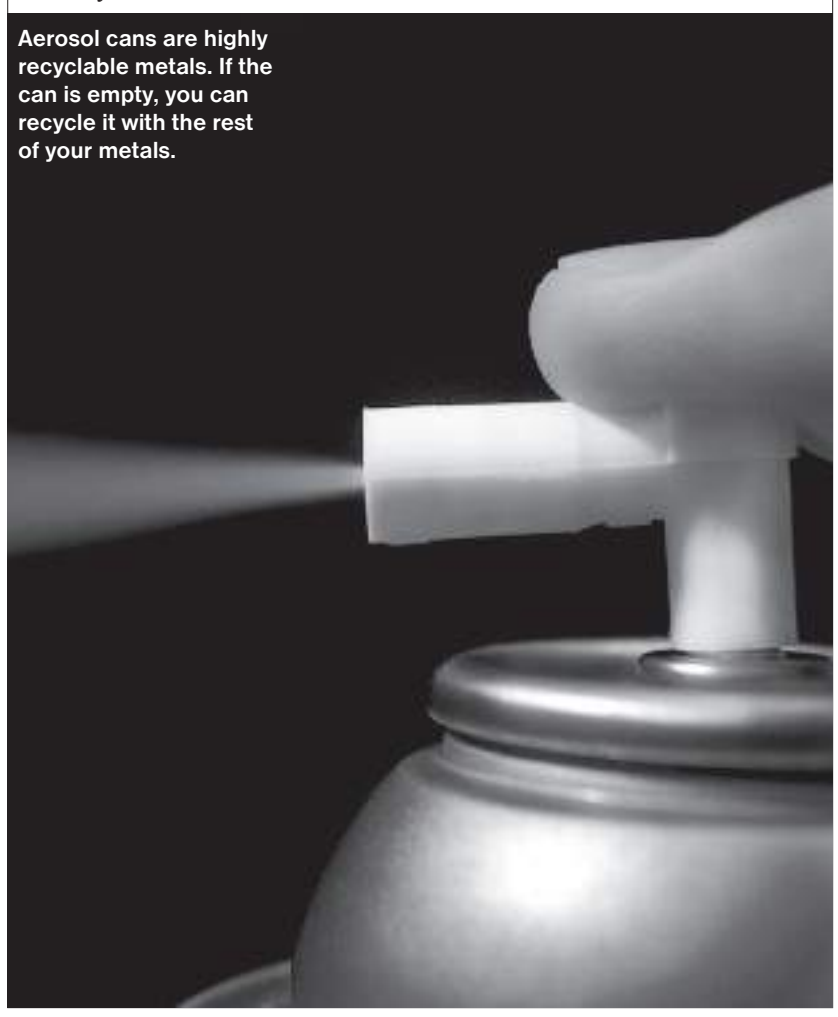
Danger Ahead

When prepping an aerosol can for recycling, DO NOT puncture a hole in the can and rinse out remaining product. These cans are pressurized and could explode if punctured. Partially filled cans should be taken to a household hazardous waste event or location.

Aero-so-long

Aerosols no longer contain ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), but they still have volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide. These can all have a significant environmental footprint. Check for aerosol alternatives (such as spray pumps) for products like deodorant, paint and pesticides.

Source: www.earth911.org



Aerosol cans are highly recyclable metals. If the can is empty, you can recycle it with the rest of your metals.

Life & Style

Mystery 'Eleanor Rigby' document goes to auction

Eleanor Rigby: fact or fiction?

That question, which has bedeviled Beatles' fans for decades, may be answered in part by a 1911 hospital payroll sheet to be auctioned in London on Thursday.

The document, sent by Paul McCartney in 1990 to the director of a music charity who had asked for funding, contains the signature of a scullery maid named "E. Rigby" who worked in a Liverpool hospital.

The director of the company auctioning the document believes the woman who signed the payroll is the same Eleanor Rigby buried in 1939 in a Liverpool graveyard next to the church where McCartney met the young John Lennon.

"I've spoken to the person who lived in the house where she used to live, and they've confirmed that the signature is the same signature of the person in the graveyard," said Tom Owen of the Fame Bureau auction house, adding that the finding may contradict McCartney's longtime assertion that the song was based on a made-up character.

"It's intriguing that McCartney owned it because he says he created the song around a fictitious figure," said Owen. "And yet, how did he have this document and why did he have it? When he was asked to donate money, he sent this."

Interest is so high it's estimated the document may fetch $750,000.

McCartney has said the song was not based on a real person but concedes he may have been subconsciously influenced by seeing the tombstone.

When the auction was announced earlier this month, he released a statement reiterating that the character was not real. "If someone wants to spend money buying a document to prove that a fictitious character exists, that's fine with me," McCartney said.

The payroll sheet was signed by "E. Rigby" after she collected her pay at Liverpool's City Hospital. McCartney has not revealed how he got the document, or why he sent it to the charity 18 years ago.

According to the tombstone, Eleanor Rigby was born in 1895. If she is the woman who signed the hospital payroll, she would have been about 16 at the time. She worked as a maid washing pots and pans in the hospital kitchen, the document says.

The song "Eleanor Rigby," released in 1966 as a single and on the Beatles' "Revolver" album, represented a sharp break for the band, which until then had largely relied on cheerful tunes for their international hits.

With its haunting refrain, "Ah, look at all the lonely people," it is a devastating portrayal of an isolated woman whose death draws so little notice that no one attends her funeral.

There are no rock 'n' roll guitars or drums on the somber track—McCartney's lead vocal is backed by violins, violas and cellos arranged by Beatles producer George Martin.

"It's a Beatles song with no Beatles instruments," said Glenn Gass, a rock historian who teaches a course on the Beatles at Indiana University.

"It's just so bleak and so sad: she picks up the rice at someone else's wedding, the whole image of her wearing a face that she keeps in a jar by the door. There are things happening emotionally that you just can't see. It's not a pop song in any traditional sense, but it's one of their great songs."

Lennon and George Harrison sing harmony; Ringo Starr does not play or sing, although Beatles experts say he contributed one line to the lyrics. "Eleanor Rigby" is credited to the Lennon-McCartney writing team, but it is widely regarded as primarily by McCartney.

McCartney has said he considered naming the woman in the song "Daisy Hawkins." He also mulled naming the unsympathetic priest "Father McCartney" but decided on "Father McKenzie" so his own father wouldn't be burdened.

The song has had so much impact that a statue honoring Eleanor Rigby—be she real or imagined—has been built in downtown Liverpool. Passers-by often place flowers there.

AP

Annie Mawson, Founder and Chief Executive of Sunbeams Music Trust charity, poses with a page from a 1911 Corporation of Liverpool accounts book with an entry for Eleanor Rigby, a scullery maid, in London, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008.

Owen said "every penny" from the auction will go to Sunbeams Music Trust, a charity that provides music instruction to people with special needs.

The charity's founder, Annie Mawson, received the document from McCartney after writing him an 11-page letter seeking help for her foundation, which uses Beatles songs, among others, to teach music to people with physical and mental disabilities. She has found, for example, that autistic children respond well to Beatles music.

"I told Paul McCartney how his music had helped so many vulnerable children," she said.

She hand-delivered the letter to McCartney's London office in 1989 and received the hospital payroll document in the mail the following year. It was in an envelope carrying the logo of McCartney's world tour, but did not contain any note.

"I think my letter moved him, so he sent me this beautiful parchment document, a ledger, from 1911, showing E. Rigby," Mawson said. "My head was whirling when I saw the significance."

Her plan is to use the proceeds from the auction to finally build a music instruction center in Cumbria, England, where the charity is based.

"This is what I dreamt about in the '90s," she said, explaining that she held the document for years as the value of Beatles memorabilia soared.

"It's taken this long to develop the charity and get a good team behind it and now we really need a proper center." ***(AP)***

Laura Bush confirms she's shopping a book proposal

AP

In this image released by the History Channel, first lady Laura Bush speaks with experts from the PBS program "Antiques Roadshow" Leigh Keno, left, and his brother Leslie Keno during a tour of the White House, in Washington on Sept. 17, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—First lady Laura Bush confirmed to The Associated Press that she is planning a memoir and has met with publishers.

"I've been talking to some publishers, but nothing has happened yet—just a few visits," she said in a telephone interview Tuesday to discuss her upcoming special about the White House on cable's History channel Earlier this month, the AP reported on Bush's proposed book, citing three publishing executives with knowledge of the discussions who asked not to be identified because talks were in the early stages and highly confidential. The executives said that Bush is being represented by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose many clients include former President Clinton, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Barnett, who worked with Bush when she and daughter Jenna collaborated on a children's book, declined comment Tuesday when contacted by the AP.

A memoir from Laura Bush could be the political version of "Garbo Speaks." The public has long been fascinated by the first lady, if only because she has said so little about herself, and her life is already a best seller in fictional form, in Curtis Sittenfeld's novel "American Wife."

While Nancy Reagan famously settled scores with old foes like former White House chief of staff Donald Regan in "My Turn," one publishing executive with knowledge of the meetings with Laura Bush said the current first lady has vowed to write a positive book, with a minimum of criticism. The executive asked not to be identified, also citing the confidentiality of the discussions.

Publishers have a much higher regard for the first lady, a former schoolteacher known as a passionate reader, than for President Bush, and a book deal—even during a dire economy—would likely be worth at least as much as Hillary Clinton's $8 million for the memoir "Living History." Books by recent first ladies, including Laura Bush's mother-in-law, Barbara Bush, have had more dependable commercial appeal than those by former presidents.

President Bush said recently that he, too, wants to write a book, but has yet to shop a proposal. Publishers, noting his poor approval ratings, have urged him to wait.

Publishers are betting that the market for a memoir by Laura Bush is much greater than for her children's book, "Read All About It!"—published last spring by HarperCollins with an announced first printing of 500,000. Although the book was launched by a mother-daughter appearance on the "Today Show," only 77,000 copies have sold so far, according to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks about 70 percent of industry sales. "American Wife," released in September with an announced 100,000 printing, has sold 66,000 copies, according to Nielsen.

As of Tuesday afternoon, "Read All About It!" ranked 19,975 on Amazon.com; "American Wife" was 586.

Most expensive new book arrives in NY from Italy

AP

Michael Inman, left, Andrew Pastore, center, and Myriam deArteni, turn the pages of "Michelangelo: La Dotta Mano," a volume of photograph's of the Renaissance master's sculptures by Aurelio Amendola, during an exclusive press preview at the New York Public Library in New York, Tuesday Nov. 25, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—It's billed as the world's most expensive, most beautiful new book.

Valued at well over $100,000, a 62-pound handmade tome depicting the life and work of Michelangelo has arrived at the New York Public Library, fresh from publication in Italy.

The velvet- and marble-bound book will go on public display next Tuesday.

It takes six months to make each book, using Italian artisan skills dating to the Renaissance. The copy on display was donated to the library, but more than 20 books have been sold.

"I love books," Marilena Ferrari, the Italian publisher who produced the extravagance, said in a telephone interview from Bologna, Italy, where she's president of a company called FMR, which publishes fine books about art.

"Books are being destroyed by the Internet, they're losing their identity—it's the modern, Internet version of burning books," she said. "Today, things last so little before they disappear. "

The book, titled "Michelangelo. La Dotta Mano" or "the learned hand," has a front cover made of white marble from Michelangelo's favorite quarry, in Carrara. The binding is covered with a red silk velvet handmade by the same Italian shop that made the main stage curtains at The Metropolitan Opera and Milan's Teatro Alla Scala.

The book is filled with photographs of Michelangelo's sculptures and plates of his drawings, plus images of other creations, from the Sistine Chapel ceiling to his very personal poetry. The text is by Michelangelo biographer Giorgio Vasari, with an essay by the director of the Vatican Museums, Antonio Paolucci.

MTV to host inaugural ball in Washington for Obama

Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV is throwing an inaugural ball for President-elect Barack Obama.

The network announced Tuesday that it will host the "Be the Change Inaugural Ball" at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington on Jan. 20. The event will be televised live across MTV's many channels and platforms, including MTV and MTV.com.

The Viacom Inc.-owned network said the event will feature leading artists, celebrities and government officials. To celebrate the large youth voter turnout in the election, hundreds of young people will be chosen to attend based on their demonstrated volunteerism.

MTV's announcement comes as a host of organizations are planning inaugural balls in Washington, where more than a million people are expected to be drawn to the nation's capital for the occasion.

Pensions frozen at Random House Inc.

NEW YORK (AP)—The country's largest trade publisher, Random House Inc., has frozen the pensions of its current employees and eliminated them for future hires, the latest cuts in an industry hit by declining sales and anticipating, at best, a difficult 2009.

"Effective Dec. 31, benefits in the Random House, Inc. Pension Plan will no longer grow—but they will not be reduced," spokesman Stuart Applebaum said in a statement released Thursday in response to a query from The Associated Press.

Applebaum added that, effective Jan. 1, no new employees "will be enrolled in the Random House, Inc. Pension Plan." The company will continue to offer matching funds, up to 6 percent, for 401k plans.

"Random House has always been a cost-conscious company, and particularly so in these financially troubled times," he said when asked if future cuts were possible.

Applebaum said talk of cutting pension had been going on for years, although changes at Random House have been expected since Markus Dohle replaced Peter Olson in May as chairman of the publisher's worldwide operations. "Mr. Dohle's planning and discussions about the company's future has been and continue to be very interactive at all levels of the company worldwide," Applebaum said.

Random House is owned by Germany media company Bertelsmann AG.

A Random House division, the Doubleday Publishing Group, announced last month that it had laid off 16 people. "South Beach Diet" publisher Rodale Inc. recently laid off 14 from its book division.

Earlier Thursday, Barnes & Noble Inc. reported a larger-than-expected quarterly loss. The superstore chain reduced its full-year sales and earnings forecasts, sending its shares down sharply, and said it would cut the number of new stores opening in 2009.

Sales for B&N stores 15 months or older, a key indicator of a retailer's health, fell 7.4 percent from last year.

"A significant drop-off in customer traffic and consumer spending impacted our business in the third quarter," Chief Executive Steve Riggio said in a statement.

Simon & Schuster CEO Carolyn Reidy says the "marketplace is really, really soft" and adds that the publisher is trying to reduce prices on some paperbacks or accelerate the release of paperbacks, hoping to attract customers looking for bargains.

Simon & Schuster and HarperCollins have had recent success with such best sellers as David Wroblewski's "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle" and Bob Woodward's "The War Within." But both publishers worry about a weak market for older, "backlist" books.

In Loving Memory

†Eufracinia G. Bacani

Known as "Lola"
Born to Life: May 25, 1919
Called to Eternal Rest: November 24, 2008

In Her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: Jose & Maria Garong
Husband: Remigio Bacani
Son: Bernabe Bacani & Camilo Bacani
Son-in-Law: Juan T. Cabrera
Brother: Francisco Garong
Bejnamin Garong

She is survived by her:
Children: Alfredo & Nennette Bacani – *MaryJane & Florian Aguilar-AJ; Bhong & Angie Bacani-Mia*
†Bernie & Raquel Bacani – *Sheryl & Raymund*
†Camilo & Remy Bacani – *Monet, Sherry Ann, Melvenna & Remmel*
Dolly & Nick Muna – *Michelle Cabrera; Elaine & Oscar Porras-Damian Gaige, Kozmy & Reeanah; Jason John Cabrera – Jayden; Nick Jr; Raymond; Nicole;*
Mhelly Bacani;
Flor Bacani-Jeffrey

Nieces: Aida & Joseph Ada & Family; Laila & Ruben Galang & Family; Gerry & †Jesus Aldan & Family

Brothers: †Francisco & Clarita Garong; Ernesto Garong; †Benjamin Garong; Filemon & Gloria Garong; Fernando Garong & Linda

Starting November 25, 2008, Mass of Intention is celebrated nightly at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m. in St. Jude Church.

Visitation and last respect may be paid on Saturday, November 29, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at St. Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. and burial will follow at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated

From the Family

"At this age, I have things pretty much in perspective," Nicole Kidman said in a recent Los Angeles interview. "Nothing is ever as good as it seems, and nothing is ever as bad.... I passionately work hard on a film and then I let it go."

THE WASHINGTON POST

Kidman returns to Oz in a very big way

By HANK STUEVER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

LOS ANGELES—She's changed, or something. That's her story now. She uses Lululemon words, like *calm* and *universe*.

She tells Oprah (and everyone else) about going skinny-dipping in a pool beneath some Australian waterfall last year with a half-dozen other women, and how they all got pregnant within weeks of that magical bath. She got pregnant, too, and drifted out of the public sphere for a little while on a fecund ray of sunshine. She tells *Elle* magazine about the enormous zucchini she grows in her Tennessee garden, on some secluded acreage in the hills an hour out of Nashville—a humid paradise where she lives with her freshly rehabbed country pop-star husband, Keith Urban, the father of her baby daughter.

She gave birth in July at the age of 41, in a roomful of other women, and Keith. The way she describes it, it sounds less like a maternity ward and more like the epilogue of a Margaret Atwood novel, about a woman who escapes. She beatifically names the baby Sunday Rose Kidman Urban. It becomes clear right away that Nicole Kidman knows nothing of post-pregnancy flab.

She's added new glow to her old glow, and managed to lose some of that Stepford frozen-robot face. (What *was* she doing to her face? No—*you* ask her.)

The new movie is ludicrously huge. It's meant to be. It's called "Australia." It took 10 months to film.

Half of Hollywood is expecting a $120 million Vegemite bomb to go off this Wednesday when it opens; the other half believes in "Australia" deeply, almost weirdly. The thing is, no one has actually *seen* it. The director—the hopeless romantic Baz Luhrmann—is a notorious fussbudget, still fiddling with the final cut.

We are summoned to the Beverly Hills Hotel to speak about all of this with Kidman, alone, for precisely one hour (no more, no less) on a Monday afternoon in October—even though she hasn't seen the movie yet either. "It's not my preference," she will say. "To sit here and talk with you about a movie this way, without really knowing. It would help, right? But I have ultimate faith in Baz."

("Don't fall for it," a shrewd friend admonished us before we went. Regarding Kidman. Regarding hype.)

We pull up to the big pink hotel with the city's tallest palm trees swaying in the hot, earthquake-weather vibes. We walk into what appears to be a fully staffed yet completely empty joint. Pretty soon we will totally, totally fall for it.

Sorry.

A cheerful Twentieth Century Fox publicist pops in a super-secret DVD and hits Play.

It's 11 minutes or so of "Australia," delivered fresh from the actual Australia. The footage is from random scenes, personally cobbled together by Baz. (Everyone calls him Baz, rhymes with jazz.)

There's no dialogue, only an overdub of music that Baz picked off his playlist: There is the theme from "Gone With the Wind," followed by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's wistful Polynesian "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," followed by a lot of didgeridoo. It's Baz's first movie since "Moulin Rouge," the 2001 musical that also starred and more or less reinvented Nicole Kidman. Though it is not a musical, "Australia" evinces some of the "Moulin Rouge" meticulousness and theatricality, only it's more broadly epic, seemingly inspired by stuff like "Out of Africa" and "Oklahoma!" or "The African Queen" and an Indiana Jones movie, and what else? (begin ital) Everything (end ital) else.

Right exactly on time, there's a soft knock on the door and Kidman enters and the publicist leaves.

"Oh, really? You saw part of it?" Kidman asks. "I haven't even seen that. How come I haven't seen that? What's in it?"

Lady, you're in it.

"What else?"

Well, it's a blur. Baz has described it as his single-handed attempt to revive "a moribund genre," the epic romance. There's lots of kissing. (Kissing Hugh Jackman. Hugh-*completely-jacked* man, in the role of "the Drover," rockin' a tight henley undershirt, except when he's peeling it off.) There's kissing, and galloping, and sweating, and bombs exploding, and cattle stampeding, and people running for their lives. There are kangaroos, aborigines, and "Wizard of Oz" clips of Judy Garland clicking her ruby slippers.

She reacts in mock surprise, as though this is news: "Kissing and galloping! Oh, my. You could put all that on a poster, couldn't you? 'There's kissing and galloping and sweating and'—what else did you have in there? That sounds like a movie I might like to go see."

To be closer to her older children and keep the family together, Kidman and Urban recently bought another house in L.A. "It's strange, but in a great way, to have teen-agers. For a period of time it's secretive and then it's not. They get to this age where they start to open up, and it's really nice. And they keep me informed about things I would not know about otherwise."

What sort of things?

"Music and things in culture and, well, Bella and Keith really like the same music, which is interesting to me, and—" she says and then catches herself. "But anyway, we won't discuss my kids, because they don't like it. They read these things and they're like, 'Shut up!' "

Kidman participates in strange movies, and willfully so. She has said over and over that for her it's about the director—it has been ever since the two years she and Cruise spent locked in the codependent perfectionism of Stanley Kubrick, for 1999's impressively imploded "Eyes Wide Shut." Kidman's movies since are either high-budget forays or low-budget passion projects, and not in between.

Moviegoers often give her the overall *meh*, but film students afford her the compliment of scrutiny.

David Thomson, one of the best film writers and scholars alive (author of "The Whole Equation," "The New Biographical Dictionary of Film" and the just-released "Have You Seen ... ?"), wrote a 267-page assessment of her career in his poetic 2006 book "Nicole Kidman." Some saw it as a mash note from a crazy old man, but it's difficult to find anything better written about what it means to be modern movie star. She learned how to be famous, and then she learned how to be interesting.

In concept, and sometimes in execution, Kidman's choices can be seen as an unflinching act of courage and artistry—if you squint. When, for example, a director wants her to do a graphic sex scene, she'll do it. She'll do rape, abuse, deep pain. In "Fur," as an imaginary version of Diane Arbus, she erotically shaved all the fake body hair off a hirsute Robert Downey Jr. She'll do furious masturbation ("Margot at the Wedding"), she'll do nude, she'll verge on pedophilia. (That last one was in 2004's "Birth"—some say it was her best movie, only who ever saw it?) Generally, she'll rip her heart out in take after take. She did get an Oscar, after all. (In 2003, for playing Virginia Woolf in "The Hours." Her cruelest detractors say the prosthetic nose won.)

But she won't do any of these things without the right story, the right script and the right director.

"If it's small or big, it doesn't matter," she says. "I'm just not interested in a laissez-faire, oh-we'll-just-see-how-it-comes-out moviemaking process. People think there aren't people like that making movies, but there absolutely are," she says. "Every time I worked for someone like that, it fell apart. I do better with an obsessive-compulsive personality. I love perfectionism. ... And if I can continue the Oz metaphor from ('Australia'), there are very few Wizards of Oz out there. You pull back the curtain on the ideas that people say they all have, the films they all keep saying they're going to make ... and it's not really there a lot of times. ... The great directors are the ones who are never finished with it, and the film winds up being dragged out of their hands, wrenched really. That's my kind of director."

What's it like to have a big movie like this coming out, critics ready to pounce?

"Does it keep me up at night? No," she says. "Do I care deeply, do I not want to see the people who are involved in it fail? Yes, of course. I would love it to be a success. Will I be able to step foot in Australia *after* this? I hope so."

She cracks herself up. "But, you know, my country will survive whether this film is good or not."

She goes on: "At this age, I have things pretty much in perspective. Nothing is ever as good as it seems, and nothing is ever as bad. Which seems a very simple thing to say, but it's the truth, that's what it is. I passionately work hard on a film and then I let it go. I just have to. ... I'm committed to my art form as a lifetime journey. That's where it stands. I also have my kids and my life and my whole other thing that gives me a purpose and a reason to be around."

She's found a whole new continent she likes: America. The one between Los Angeles and New York, which she admits she'd hardly ever seen before. She's a fan of riding around in her husband's luxury tour bus, to his concert dates at state fairs and speedways. She likes to sneak away and go to people's garage sales. "All I need is a hat, and I go," she says. She bought little ceramic candle holders at one sale, she says, and embroidered Christmas stockings at another, "when it wasn't anywhere near Christmastime. I love it."

According to Nicole Kidman, the people at these garage sales almost never know she's Nicole Kidman, which is the highest sort of compliment, in her world.

Burke crowned 'Dancing with the Stars' queen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brooke Burke waltzed away with the mirror ball trophy on the "Dancing with the Stars" finale.

The 37-year-old TV personality and mother of four dominated the seventh season of the popular ABC dancing competition and bested former NFL player Warren Sapp and former 'NSync member Lance Bass during the Tuesday night finale, in which she reprised an emotional Viennese waltz routine that earned her a perfect score from the show's panel of judges.

"Unbelievable," was all Burke could muster after winning amid a flurry a confetti.

From the outset, the slinky former host of E!'s "Wild On" and CBS' "Rock Star" commanded the ballroom this season, coming in first place eight out of 10 times and receiving a 10—the judges' top score—16 times. Burke was crowned the latest "Dancing with the Stars" champion after the judges' scores—88 out of 90—were combined with viewers' votes.

"I actually can't believe it," said Derek Hough, Burke's professional partner, who's never won the competition. "I really can't. I honestly can't. The journey's been so long. It's been tough. It's been wonderful. It's been everything I could ever hope for. Wow. I can't believe we actually did it, girl."

Burke maintained an eight point lead over Sapp, the charismatic 35-year-old fan favorite whose technique was consistently criticized by the judges. Sapp still managed to hustle his way into second place with professional partner Kym Johnson, despite receiving one point less from the judges than the third place finisher, 29-year-old singer Bass.

"From the moment you start, you make me smile," head judge Len Goodman told Sapp.

Bass and his professional partner, Lacey Schwimmer, were upbeat about their loss. The pair danced away after their dismissal. And he's not hanging up his dancing shoes just yet. The former boybander will join professional dancers and other former contestants for the 38-city "Dancing with the Stars" tour, which is set to kick off Dec. 17 in San Diego.

"You never took the safe road once," judge Carrie-Ann told Bass during the finale.

Previously dismissed celebrities—actor Cody Linley; sprinter Maurice Greene; actresses Susan Lucci and Cloris Leachman; chef Rocco DiSpirito; reality TV star Kim Kardashian; actor Ted McGinley; and comedian Jeffrey Ross—also returned for a last dance. Injured volleyball player Misty May-Treanor and singer Toni Braxton remained off their feet.

AP

In this image provided by ABC-TV Brooke Burke dances with her partner Derek Hough Monday Nov. 24, 2008.

Ted Koppel leaving Discovery Channel early

NEW YORK (AP)—Former "Nightline" host Ted Koppel and his documentary team are taking a buyout from the Discovery Channel six months before the end of their contracts.

Koppel

Both sides said it was clear there was no interest in continuing to work together. Koppel's last project, a documentary about lynching in the United States called "The Last Lynching," aired a few weeks ago.

Top management at both the network and its parent company, Discovery Communications Inc., has changed since Koppel arrived there from ABC's "Nightline" in January 2006.

The new management is more interested in projects that can be rerun for a long period of time both in the U.S. and internationally, and news programs have a shorter shelf life, said company spokesman David Leavy.

Koppel also noted that the documentary unit is expensive for Discovery, perhaps more of an issue since the company went public two months ago.

"We leave with gratitude for the professional opportunities we've been given and for the generosity with which we've been treated," Koppel said.

The veteran newsman, 68, wants to stay in the business, but not at the six-documentary-a-year pace that had been set with his Discovery contract.

Among his work at Discovery: a four-hour documentary on the changes to Chinese society, which aired before the Olympics this summer, and "Living With Cancer," a piece that chronicled the health fight of former "Nightline" colleague Leroy Sievers.

Koppel's documentary unit is breaking up, but not his professional relationship with longtime producer Tom Bettag.

"Ted and I have worked together for a long time and hope to continue to do more good news programming," Bettag said Tuesday. "We just don't know where it will be at this point."

Gibson ordered to talk about 'Passion' filming

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge says Mel Gibson must answer questions about planning and filming "The Passion of the Christ" in response to a screenwriter's lawsuit.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Gregory Alarcon (al-ahr-KOHN') on Tuesday ordered Gibson to appear for a deposition by mid-January.

Screenwriter Benedict Fitzgerald claims he was underpaid for his work on "Passion."

His attorneys say Gibson spent tens of thousands of dollars on his children's education while filming in Italy and paid a chiropractor $78,000. They contend those expenses lowered payments to Fitzgerald.

Gibson's attorneys want to keep their client from having to answer questions about the blockbuster film.

Gibbon's lawyer didn't return an after-hours phone message.

Vanity Fair's annual Oscar party back next year

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The hottest Oscar after-party in town is back—only smaller.

Vanity Fair says its annual Academy Awards party is returning for next year's Oscar night on Feb. 22. The magazine's 2008 bash was canceled in support of the Hollywood writers' strike.

The A-list soiree, which has boasted such guests as Madonna and Al Gore, will take place at West Hollywood's Sunset Tower Hotel instead of its traditional home, the restaurant Morten's.

The magazine's editor Graydon Carter says on VanityFair.com Tuesday that the bash "will be a much more intimate affair than in years past," with a scaled back guest list.

Given the state of the economy, Carter says the party will also recycle decor from past years.

AP

In this June 25, 2008 file photo, Graydon Carter arrives to a special screening of "Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson" in New York.

'Friday Night Lights' shines again Jan. 16 on NBC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC says "Friday Night Lights" will make its season debut on the network in January, along with the new reality shows "Superstars of Dance" and Howie Mandel's "Howie Do It."

NBC said Tuesday that the third season of "Friday Night Lights" will begin airing Jan. 16. In an unusual arrangement, the acclaimed football-and-family drama was first available this season to DirecTV subscribers.

"Superstars of Dance," an international competition show from the producers of Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance," will premiere Jan. 4 before moving to its regular Monday time slot the next night and airing through Jan. 26.

It will be paired on Monday with "Momma's Boys," a dating show from executive producer Ryan Seacrest of "American Idol."

"Howie Do It," a hidden-camera prank show starring Mandel while his "Deal or No Deal" takes a break, will debut Jan. 9.

Promising conversations turn to empty words in dating game

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I consider myself to be a nice, normal person. I know how to make interesting, intelligent conversation that can engage just about anyone. When I go out socially, I often meet people and we hit it off.

Typically, by the end of the conversation, there comes a point where it is decided—usually by the other person—that we exchange information, which includes phone numbers and e-mail addresses. I generally wait a few days before calling, or until an occasion arises to invite the person to participate with me.

When I call or e-mail, I always leave a message, but I almost never get a response back. Sometimes I wait to see if the person I just met calls me first, but it never happens.

Do people just pretend to be interested in me, or am I fooling myself? Or are they just too busy to make the effort to have another friend? I don't understand it. Am I missing something?

BLOWN OFF IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR BLOWN OFF: What you have described happens frequently—usually when someone wants to end a conversation on a positive note. The failure to follow through can be for a variety of reasons—busy schedule, lack of interest, met someone else, changed their mind.

But if this is happening more than 90 percent of the time, it's time to look in the mirror and ask yourself if you come on too strong, or keep the people you meet involved in "interesting, intelligent conversation" so long they feel the need to get away. My advice is to ask someone you trust whether this could be a possibility.

DEAR ABBY: Is there such a thing as a "quarter life" crisis? Ever since I completed my undergraduate degree, I feel like I have lost something great and can't seem to find my way. My professors were the only family I had.

I have moved to a new school and started a new job, and I feel extremely unsure about what I'm doing. I feel lost without the support of my professors. How do people make it through this transition without the assistance of family and friends? Is this normal, or am I the only one who feels this way?

SEARCHING FOR MY PATH

DEAR SEARCHING: Your feelings are normal. You are a fledgling who has left a protective nest. You are now learning to fly on your own power.

Join some of the clubs at your new school, and spend some time getting to know your co-workers. New relationships take time to cultivate, but in a few months you will feel more at home in your new surroundings.

DEAR ABBY: Is there something wrong with the fact that I don't like to entertain? I don't even like having people over at my house. My husband likes to barbecue and invite others to come over. Am I wrong—or am I a snob?

ENOUGH ON MY PLATE

DEAR ENOUGH: Neither one. You may be socially recessive or an introvert. But because you married someone who is an extrovert, you will have to learn to compromise. If this is too difficult for you, please consider counseling to help you work through your social anxieties.

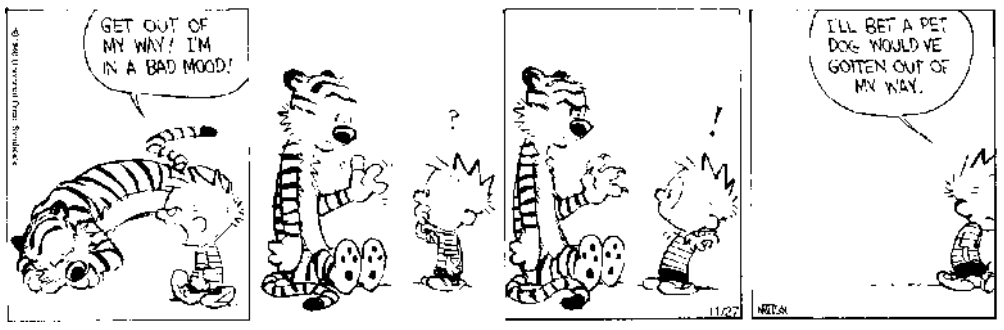
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

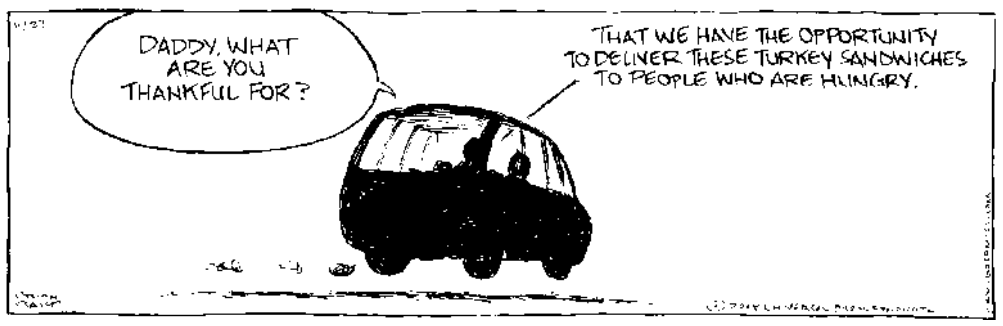


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DADDY, WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?
THAT WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER THESE TURKEY SANDWICHES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

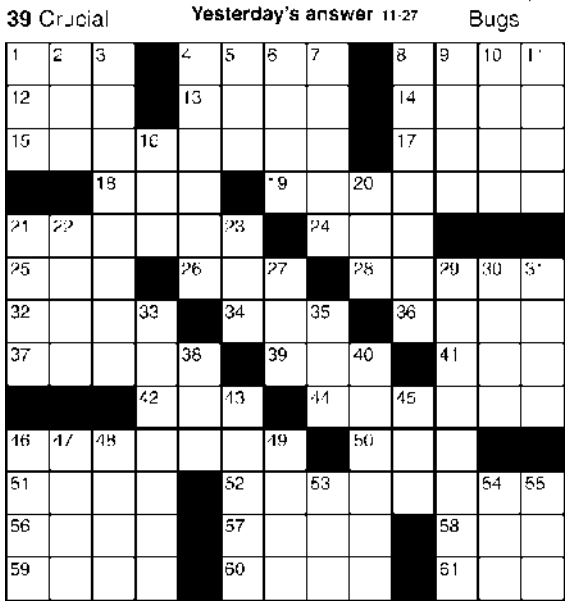
ACROSS
1 Light applica tior
4 Author Greene
8 Bean curd
12 TV lawyer Stone
13 Destroy
14 Wading bird
15 Montana city
17 Top-notch
18 Young fellow
19 Happening on 12/31
21 Sullen look
24 Genetics abbr.
25 Ply paddles
26 Grass drops
28 Unpaid bills
32 First victim
34 Pooch
36 Tragic
37 TV, newspapers, etc.
39 Crucial
41 Driver's ID (Abbr.)
42 Fre quently
44 Dry red wine
46 "— of Solace"
50 Floral neckwear
51 Incite
52 Wallet
56 Midmonth date
57 Lotion additive
58 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
59 Face (Sl.)
60 Acerbic
61 Moment

DOWN
1 Society newbie
2 Boxer Laila
3 Rose in waves
4 Led
5 Massachusetts cape
6 Nervous
7 Runner-up
8 Adorned a la Miss America
9 Orchestra member
10 Sawyer's pal
11 Secondhand
16 Legislation
20 Moreover
21 Metric measure
22 Earring site
23 Scarlet
27 Stir-fry pan
29 Oodles
30 Small combo
31 Denomination
33 Elsa of "Born Free," e.g.
35 Jewel
38 Sternward
40 "Old" Disney dog
43 Members of the brass
45 Gridiron decider
46 Witticism
47 Pak - stan's language
48 A very long time
49 Venus de
53 Costello or Ferrigno
54 Shelter
55 Elmer, to Bugs

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	D	D	■	N	A	I	L	■	C	-	-	P	
I	H	E	■	O	L	I	O	■	L	I	K	E	
M	F	I	■	S	I	I	P	C	O	V	F	R	
S	W	I	P	E	■	■	E	A	I	■	■	■	
■	■	■	A	J	A	R	■	I	H	A	S	A	
P	E	I	L	O	V	E	R	■	E	V	■	L	
U	Z	I	■	B	F	B	O	P	■	I	R	A	
B	R	E	D	■	S	E	A	R	O	V	E	R	
S	A	R	A	H	■	C	R	O	W	■	■	■	
■	■	■	M	A	R	■	■	G	N	A	R	L	
G	L	O	S	S	O	V	E	R	■	H	A	Y	
A	■	D	E	■	D	O	R	A	■	E	G	O	
P	E	E	L	■	S	W	A	M	■	M	E	N	

Yesterday's answer 11-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute; touch-tone/rotary phones. (18 or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jaleel White, 32; Brooke Langton, 38; Robin Givens, 44; Fisher Stevens, 45

Happy Birthday: Not much will be able to hold you back when you set your mind on doing something. This is a year of accomplishment, so get organized and make the most of what's to come. Be ready to jump at every opportunity. Favorable changes in your love life will play a role in the choices you make. Your numbers are 8, 17, 20, 25, 34, 38, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do some quick year-end financial moves to avoid extra taxes next year. Your ability to do what's required immediately will help you win in financial matters. Prepare your house for company. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Good things can happen when you set your mind on the positive. Love is in your corner but that doesn't mean you should forget about getting important things finished and out of the way. Prepare to do some damage control to prevent financial loss. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take an active role in what's happening within your home and family. Do not leave anything to chance—you can manipulate situations to suit your needs. Treat someone you love to something special and you'll be rewarded. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make adjustments at home to accommodate older family members. A change is in order but it can work to everyone's favor if you cooperate. Get in the spirit of the season and let love grow. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be in demand because of your generous and high-spirited nature. Organize events or activities that friends and colleagues can attend. It will be a great time to network and get your ideas heard by key people in your industry. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stick to the things you enjoy doing and take time out for yourself. You need some down time away from the people who are causing you worry. Sticking around home will only lead to arguments that will escalate into a no-win situation. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't waste time, make time work in your favor. You should be getting to know new people through activities that interest you. Be creative and stop procrastinating about what you should do. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A complete change of direction is upon you but, if handled correctly, it can turn out to be a deal of a lifetime. You have the potential to make some big dollars if you are willing to let go of something you've worked hard to build. Don't give up too much for too little. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be emotional, especially if someone tries to back you into a corner or asks you to make a commitment. If you lead someone on in your business or personal life, expect to face opposition. Travel plans will face setbacks. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Set your budget and stick to it. A solid financial plan for the future will ensure your safety and security. A look at job options may lead you to a more lucrative position. Don't be afraid to pursue opportunities elsewhere. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Everything appears to be opening up for you, while it may be closing down for those around you. There is a chance to get involved in a program that will help you raise your income. Do the research. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The more you gossip or meddle, the more trouble you will get into. Focus on love, helping others and your own personal relationships. Contact someone you have missed and still wish you had in your life. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an adventurer and a friendly, popular person who attracts friends, lovers and allies. You are curious and love a challenge.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9			
	9				5	
7	5	2		1		8
3			7			2
	1			6		
9		5				1
2		6		3	5	1
	9				2	
			8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	2	9	5	3	1	4	7
1	7	3	4	6	2	9	8	5
5	9	4	1	8	7	2	3	6
4	5	8	2	7	6	3	9	1
3	6	1	5	4	9	8	7	2
9	2	7	8	3	1	5	6	4
7	1	5	6	9	8	4	2	3
8	4	6	3	2	5	7	1	9
2	3	9	7	1	4	6	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE SALON Solution: 10 letters

T	E	L	L	U	M	B	P	B	M	S	C	A	R	F
O	N	S	T	N	I	T	A	I	L	O	N	G	H	Y
U	K	F	F	I	S	N	R	I	I	C	U	T	S	S
P	F	R	M	I	D	U	W	O	D	F	C	S	T	T
F	D	I	W	T	N	F	R	R	U	C	F	Y	S	R
E	R	T	E	S	A	L	O	N	S	M	L	I	H	E
T	E	V	D	V	R	E	V	I	H	E	E	B	I	N
L	A	S	E	P	T	O	R	P	O	G	B	P	N	D
W	D	N	Y	A	S	O	O	T	R	W	R	O	E	Y
O	S	I	D	R	N	N	L	P	T	O	I	S	O	H
B	G	P	P	T	Y	H	L	E	M	B	T	S	D	K
M	U	I	R	T	L	O	E	I	S	A	Y	G	P	H
O	L	Z	A	A	S	L	R	U	C	N	H	L	U	S
C	P	I	Z	I	Y	D	S	K	N	C	I	S	E	D
S	L	E	G	N	I	R	F	S	H	S	U	R	B	R

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Bad, Band, Bangs, Beehive, Book, Bowl, Brush, Burs, Buzz, Celebrity, Clip, Color, Comb, Curls, Current, Cuts, Design, Dreads, Dyed, Fab, Fringe, Gels, Hold, Iron, Long, Messy, Mousse, Mullet, Part, Perm, Pins, Plugs, Ponytail, Prom, Relv, Rinse, Rollers, Salon, Scarf, Shampoo, Shine, Short, Sleek, Spray, Stack, Strands, Style, Tints, Toupee, Treatment, Trendy, Trim, Twist, Updo, Wave, Weave, Wisps

Yesterday's Answer: Engineered

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities" for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate. $3 per book for first-class postage. Ship to (print clearly): Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Wall St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105. Or call toll-free, 1-800-828-6388. Check or credit card orders only.

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For Rent: 2 bedroom, 1bedroom, studio type, located in Aslito and CK centralized location. Fully furnished, 24hr/ water, safe, cheap. For more inquiry please call 287-7769

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We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, vs. **WILMER R. SABLAN aka WILMER RABAGO SABLAN and EMERITHA T. TORRES aka EMERITHA TAISACAN TORRES,** Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0360

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 942 containing an area of 917 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 18, dated December 03, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4286, dated December 09, 1993, the description herein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 1st, December, 2008, at the hour of 3:00p.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, November 5, 2008.

/s/ **VINCENT J. SEMAN**
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Saipan Tribune

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235- NEWS

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

TEAR BURST TIER

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Find today's solution in this section

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, vs. **PLASTAG ENTERPRISES, INC., the ESTATE OF PLASIDO M. TAGABUEL, DORIS TAGABUEL, ARLENE I. TAGABUEL, and JOHN HENRY I. TAGABUEL,** Defendants.

Civil Action No. 04-0482A

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasido M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the following described, real property situated in the CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 010 G 12, (formerly part of Lot 010 G 11, formerly part of Lot 010 G 04, formerly part of original Lot 010 G 02) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 G 03, the original of which was recorded 09 Nov 93 as Document No. 93-3937 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.;

Lot No. 018 E 69, (formerly part of Lot 018 E 06, Lot 018 E 07, and Lot 018 E 65) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 018 E 05, the original of which was recorded 06 OCT 92 as Document No. 92-3227 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.;

and
Lot 2003-4-2, (formerly part of Lot 2003-4-R1, formerly part of Lot 2003-4, formerly part Lot 2004-R2, formerly part of Lot 2003 REM, formerly part of original 2003, TD 771) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2110/88, the original of which was recorded 11 May 88 as Document No. 88-1525 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, November 28, 2008,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Plastag Enterprises, Inc., the Estate of Plasido M. Tagabuel, Doris Tagabuel, Arlene I. Tagabuel, and John Henry I. Tagabuel in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 20th day of October 2008.

/S/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, COMMISSIONER**
Department of Public Safety

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

LeBron, Cavaliers roll to victory against Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)— LeBron James scored 26 points before sitting out the fourth quarter and the Cleveland Cavaliers quickly took a charged-up New York crowd out of the game in a 119-101 victory over the Knicks on Tuesday.

Delonte West added 16 points and Wally Szczerbiak had 15 for the Cavaliers, who rang up their highest point total of the season and put seven players in double figures, showing they may have more help than ever for James, the NBA's leading scorer.

Fans hoping someday to see James play in New York got to learn how good his Cleveland team is right now. The Cavaliers turned it into a blowout while James was enjoying his first rest to start the second quarter, and improved the NBA's third-best record to 11-3.

Quentin Richardson scored 22 points and newcomer Tim Thomas had 16 for the Knicks, who lost for the fourth time in five games and fell to 7-7.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past New York Knicks' Quentin Richardson (23) during the first half the NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Suns 99, Thunder 98

At Oklahoma City, Matt Barnes hit a 3-pointer from the left wing with 25.7 seconds left to complete Phoenix's fourth-quarter rally and spoil Scott Brooks' home debut as Oklahoma City head coach.

The Thunder led throughout the second half and had been up by as much as 16 late in the third quarter before Steve Nash rallied the Suns with a 13-0 run.

Barnes' 3-pointer gave Phoenix its first lead of the second half. The Thunder had two final chances to win, but Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook both missed shots on their final possession.

Amare Stoudemire finished with 22 points, Nash had 20 points and 15 assists and Barnes scored 16.

Durant led Oklahoma City with 29 points and Chris Wilcox scored a season-high 18.

Wizards 124, Warriors 100

At Washington, Ed Tapscott's coaching debut with Washington was much more successful than Jamal Crawford's playing debut with Golden State.

Coaching his first game of any sort since a spot on the bench in his daughter's youth league in 1993, Tapscott juggled a few things and guided the Wizards to a blowout, breaking a five-game losing streak and avoiding the worst 12-game start in franchise history.

Caron Butler scored a season-high 35 points, Andray Blatche had season highs with 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Antawn Jamison added 25 points and 11 rebounds as the Wizards improved to 2-10 with their best scoring output of the season. Their 124 points topped any number achieved in the first 11 games under Eddie Jordan, who was fired Monday and replaced by Tapscott, who had been the team's director of player development.

Corey Maggette scored 17 to lead the Warriors, who have lost three straight.

Mavericks 109, Pacers 106

At Dallas, Jason Terry scored 29 points and combined with Jason Kidd to key a fourth-quarter run that rallied Dallas past Indiana for its fifth straight victory.

Dirk Nowitzki added 24 points and 12 rebounds and Antoine Wright scored a career-high 24 for the Mavericks. Terry and Kidd combined for all of Dallas' points in an 18-8 spurt that helped the Mavs erase a 13-point second-half deficit.

Kidd finished with 11 points and 13 assists as the Mavericks won their second consecutive home game after dropping their first four.

Danny Granger's 22 points and Troy Murphy's 21 points and 14 rebounds led the Pacers. Brandon Rush added 18 points off the bench for Indiana, which has lost five of six.

Lakers 120, Nets 93

At Los Angeles, Pau Gasol had 26 points and eight rebounds before sitting out the fourth quarter, and Los Angeles overcame a poor shooting performance by Kobe Bryant to rout New Jersey and improve the NBA's best record to 12-1.

Bryant had difficulty most of the game with Vince Carter's defense, going 5-for-17 from the field in 28 minutes and finishing with 12 points in the Lakers' fifth straight victory.

Devin Harris had 21 points and six assists for the Nets, who shot only 34.5 percent and were 3-for-19 in the fourth quarter. Carter scored 14 points before sitting out the final 6:51.

NCAA gives Indiana probation over Sampson calls

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— Fearing a postseason ban, Indiana University accepted an NCAA-ordered three years' probation with relief Tuesday, eager to continue rebuilding its once-storied men's basketball program.

After months of uncertainty over an embarrassing telephone recruiting scandal, the NCAA spared the school any additional punishment such as a postseason ban or additional scholarship losses.

But former coach Kelvin Sampson, the man at the center of the scandal, faces recruiting restrictions through November 2013 if hired by another school.

"I really believe this allows us to put the whole, ugly episode behind us and move forward," said incoming athletic director Fred Glass. "I'm obviously disappointed with the failure to monitor finding, but I'm very glad the committee didn't impose any other penalties."

The announcement ended a 20-month saga that began with Sampson's hiring in March 2006.

Infractions committee chairwoman Jo Potuto acknowledged Indiana was spared additional punishment because of its cooperation with the investigation, its own decision to take away a scholarship and extend recruiting restrictions and the school's long tradition of abiding by the rules.

"It's bittersweet," said current Indiana coach Tom Crean, with the team in Hawaii. "We didn't want to lose postseason, scholarships or television. Thank God we didn't lose any of those so we can continue to move the program without the what-ifs."

It's the first time since 1960 that the school has been found guilty of a major infraction in any sport.

The probation comes in addition to sanctions IU already has imposed.

Only two players from last season's team remain. The others were kicked off, transferred, graduated or left early for the NBA. The team has just nine scholarship players instead of the 13 allowed after giving up scholarships because of the NCAA investigation and poor academic scores.

The NCAA faulted the university for inadequate monitoring when Sampson was hired but acknowledged the former coach's conduct was "unprecedented."

The committee ruled he ignored signed compliance agreements with Indiana and ignored telephone restrictions imposed by the NCAA. Potuto also said Sampson deliberately lied to committee members and cited one such instance.

"With regard to the three-way phone calls, the former head coach said he did not knowingly participate in any three-way phone calls," Potuto told reporters. "The former assistant said he introduced the recruit on the call and the report quotes a number of prospects and parents who said they were introduced to him (Sampson) on the phone."

Sampson, now an assistant with the Milwaukee Bucks, issued a statement Tuesday saying he was "deeply disappointed" by the NCAA findings.

"The accusations at hand are things that happened on my watch and therefore I will take responsibility. I am truly sorry that there were so many people who were hurt in this situation. For the sake of everyone involved, including my family, it is time to move on," he said.

The NCAA imposed recruiting restrictions on Sampson through November 2013 and a recruiting ban for the first three years. His allowable phone calls would then be reduced to half of the NCAA limit for the remaining two years.

Former assistant Rob Senderoff, now an assistant at Kent State, also faces three years of NCAA sanctions. Senderoff was not available for comment, but athletic director Laing Kennedy said Kent State would abide by the restrictions on Senderoff regarding recruiting calls.

"We are committed to keeping Rob as an integral part of our staff. His impact and long-term value to our program—both on the court and heading up our academic efforts - both far outweigh these penalties," Kennedy said.

The NCAA acknowledged Indiana intended to closely monitor Sampson and his assistants but said the university fell short, largely because it did not have a good system in place when Sampson was hired and had to develop one "on the fly." Compliance officials did not follow up on phone record requests in a timely manner and focused too much on collaborating with the men's basketball program and not enough on adhering to requirements, it said.

"I was gratified they accepted the penalties and added nothing new to it, and that's good," said Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany, who's in Hawaii for the EA Sports Maui Invitational. "They recognized that the program had been devastated by the penalties and the departure of virtually of the whole team. While it's the end of a dark chapter, hopefully it is the beginning of a new chapter."

Under terms of its probation, IU will be required to implement a comprehensive educational program on NCAA recruiting and eligibility rules for all coaches and their staffs and report annually to the NCAA on progress and participation.

IU President Michael McRobbie said the athletics department already has begun that work.

Reports: McNamee gave DNA samples to investigators

NEW YORK (AP)— Roger Clemens' former trainer gave samples of his DNA to federal investigators trying to ascertain whether the star pitcher committed perjury before Congress, two New York newspapers reported.

The request for a DNA sample from trainer Brian McNamee suggests that investigators found readable DNA on the syringes, needles and gauze pads McNamee turned over to federal prosecutors in January, The New York Times and Daily News reported Monday night.

McNamee's lawyers have said the items, when tested, would link Clemens to the use of performance-enhancing drugs. They claim McNamee used those needles and a gauze pad while injecting Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone.

Investigators must determine whose DNA is on that material if it is going to be important to the probe. It's not clear whether federal authorities have a sample of DNA from Clemens, The Times said. His lawyer, Rusty Hardin, would not divulge that information.

"As I have said from the beginning, we are willing to cooperate with any aspect of the government's investigation," The Times quoted Hardin as saying Monday.

In the Mitchell Report on doping in baseball, McNamee said he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and HGH in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Clemens has repeatedly denied those accusations, including during testimony before Congress.

Clemens also filed a defamation lawsuit against McNamee.

Citing a pair of unidentified people familiar with the matter, The Times reported on its Web site Monday night and in Tuesday editions that McNamee provided DNA samples to federal investigators.

The Times said the two people familiar with the probe spoke on condition of anonymity because they didn't want to "jeopardize their access to sensitive information."

The Daily News reported on its Web site Monday night and in Tuesday editions that FBI agents visited McNamee in New York on Sept. 11 to collect swabs from the inside of his cheek. The Daily News said investigators also took DNA samples from McNamee's three attorneys: Richard Emery, Earl Ward and Debbie Greenberger.

The lawyers handled the medical waste in question last winter and took photos before giving it to investigators, the Daily News said.

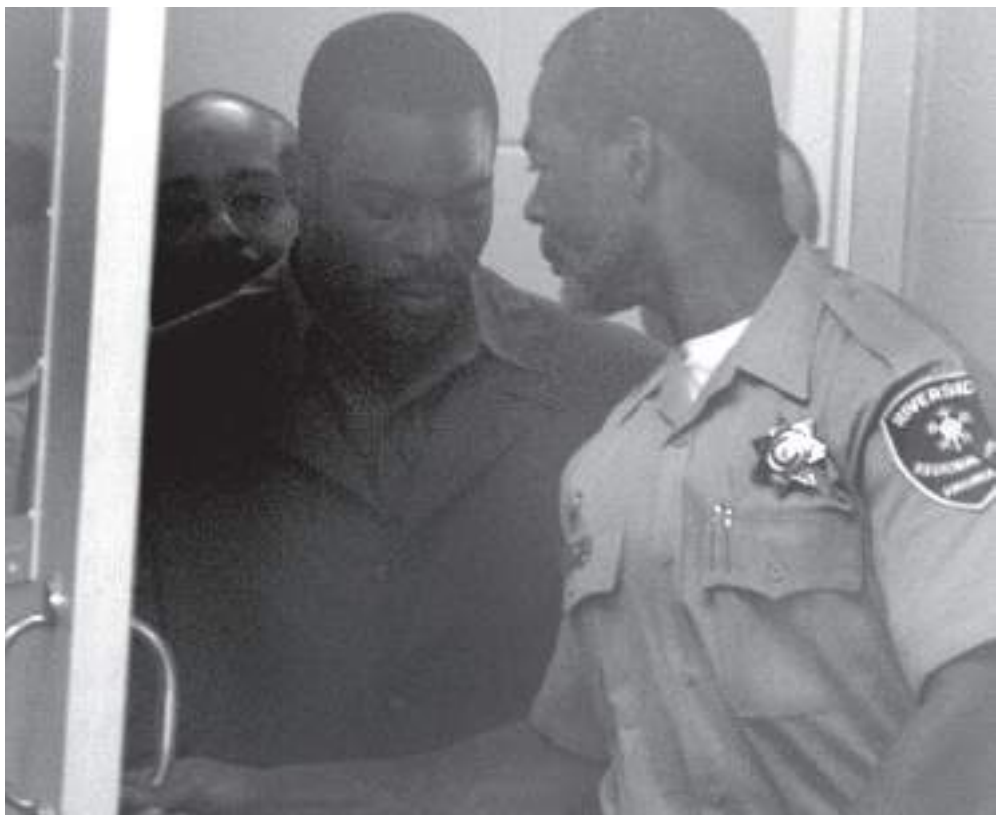
"I'm not saying one way or another whether that happened," Emery said Tuesday.

Emery also said that Matthew Parrella, who in his role as an assistant U.S. attorney interviewed McNamee, was working on a statement to be submitted by Dec. 18 in Clemens' defamation suit against McNamee. The trainer's lawyers say because McNamee did not volunteer information about Clemens but was "coerced" into giving it under threat of prosecution, his statements are "immune from any defamation."

"They're preparing a statement," Emery said. "He has to get permission for that to happen."

Hardin did not return a call seeking comment Tuesday.

Michael Vick pleads to state dogfighting charge



AP
Former NFL quarterback Michael Vick is escorted out of the Sussex County Courthouse after pleading guilty to dogfighting charges in Sussex, Va., Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008.

SUSSEX, Va. (AP)—Former NFL quarterback Michael Vick pleaded guilty Tuesday to a state dogfighting charge, a move that could make him eligible to leave prison early and potentially speed up a return to pro football.

Vick, 28, arrived wearing wrist and ankle shackles with his gray suit, but the restraints were removed by the time he entered his plea. The one-time Atlanta Falcons star also pleaded not guilty to a count of cruelty to animals, but that charge was dropped under his plea deal.

He received a three-year suspended sentence—far less than the maximum of 10 years he could have faced.

"I want to apologize to the court, my family, and to all the kids who looked up to me as a role model," Vick told the judge.

Vick's mother Brenda Boddie, brother Marcus Vick and fiancee Kijafa Frink walked in together and sat together in the front row of the gallery with other family and friends. Vick's mother declined to comment to reporters but Marcus Vick acknowledged the family was glad the ordeal was nearly over.

Vick was stoic throughout the approximately 20-minute hearing. Afterward, he turned to his young daughter and winked.

After the hearing, Surry County Commonwealth Attorney Gerald Poindexter approached Vick's mother and hugged her, saying, "At least some of this is over."

Vick already is serving a 23-month sentence in Leavenworth, Kan. on federal charges of bankrolling a dogfighting operation at a home he owned in eastern Virginia's rural Surry County, southeast of Richmond. He also admitted to participating in the killing of several underperforming dogs.

Poindexter defended allowing Vick to avoid additional prison time.

"I feel that what I did today is approved by more than a majority of Surry County, and that's the constituency that I'm concerned about," he said.

Vick is scheduled for release on July 20, 2009, and will serve three years of probation. His latest plea is important because it resolves the remaining charges against him, which is required under federal law if he is to move into a halfway house.

Vick's agent Joel Segal attended the hearing and afterwards wouldn't talk specifically about a possible return to the NFL, saying only, "Mike takes full responsibility for his actions and is ready to more forward and will let his actions speak for him."

Once the highest paid player in the NFL, Vick appeared about as trim Tuesday as when he entered prison a year ago. His lawyer, Billy Martin, said Vick's legal team hasn't been involved in any preliminary steps to revive the suspended player's career, focusing instead on reuniting him with his family.

"Michael as a human being is clearly somebody that we want to salvage," Martin said. "Michael as a football player is somebody that down the road may get a chance to look again."

The trick may be finding a team ready to take a risk on the former quarterback.

Atlanta still has Vick under contract. But Falcons owner Arthur Blank made clear late last month the three-time Pro Bowl selection won't wear that team's uniform again.

"I hope they're prepared to face the dog lovers of America," Kansas City Chiefs president and general manager Carl Peterson said earlier of a team that acquires Vick. "There are going to be a lot of problems. People love their pets, and particularly dogs. There will be protests, people expressing their thoughts—even though he's served his time."

Vick's problems have compounded since his federal conviction in 2007. He's landed in bankruptcy court after losing nearly all of his record-breaking $130 million from a 10-year deal he signed with Atlanta in December 2004.

Nine protesters from the animal rights group PETA stood quietly outside the courthouse before the hearing, holding signs with photographs of bloodied fighting dogs and others that read "Dogfighters repent."

Asked how activists would respond if the NFL takes Vick back, Dan Shannon, assistant director of PETA, said Vick must speak out against dogfighting as someone who "participated in dogfighting and saw it ruin everything he built for himself and take away all his fame, all his fortune, all of his respect."

"If he chooses to do that, that's the only way I think he could ever be seen as any kind of a positive public figure," Shannon said.

NFL BRIEFS

Reports say Browns QB Brady Quinn out for season

CLEVELAND (AP)—Browns quarterback Brady Quinn will miss the remainder of Cleveland's season with a broken right index finger he made worse by playing on Sunday, according to several reports. Citing unnamed sources, FOXsports.com and the Cleveland Plain Dealer said the break on Quinn's finger worsened after he tried to play through the injury on Sunday in a loss to the Houston Texans. Quinn initially broke the tip of the finger and damaged a tendon in his second career start on Nov. 17 at Buffalo. Quinn flew to Birmingham, Ala., on Tuesday to have the injury examined by noted orthopedist Dr. James Andrews. The second-year QB was then advised by Andrews as well as specialists brought in by the Browns to end his season with five games left before the tendon tore from the bone. Last week, Quinn was presented with three options: play through pain, immobilize the break for 4-to-6 weeks or have surgery, the Plain Dealer reported. "Brady wanted to play," the source told the paper. "If it was going to be fixed a week ago, it would have been virtually the same thing. Nobody had any idea what would happen if he'd just gone out and played with it. Doctors viewed it before then and thought he was OK to play."

NFL to review tussle between Light and Crowder

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Matt Light and Channing Crowder left their face-shoving, hair-pulling, head-smacking tussle with big smiles. The NFL may not be amused at their brief battle during the Patriots' win over the Dolphins on Sunday. Gene Washington, the NFL's director of football operations, will review the incident this week for potential discipline, a routine procedure for on-field fights, league spokesman Greg Aiello said Monday. It occurred after left tackle Light blocked linebacker Crowder, whose helmet fell off, on Stephen Gostkowski's 30-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter of New England's very physical 48-28 win at Miami. "I had no idea what was going on," Gostkowski said. "I was just worried about them falling on my leg. I didn't want to get hurt from something like that." Light did hit Gostkowski's leg after Miami's Matt Roth knocked down New England's Russ Hochstein, forcing Light backward and into the kicker. Light got up and he and Crowder pushed each other in the face. Light then grabbed Crowder's dreadlocks in his left hand and hit him three times on the head with his right. Crowder broke free and ran away with a huge grin. Both received personal foul penalties and were ejected. As they walked off, Light smiled and Crowder raised his hands to elicit cheers from his hometown fans.

De la Hoya favored against Pacquiao

BOXING

LAS VEGAS—Oscar De la Hoya has remained the favorite over Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, according to the MGM Sportsbook when visited by this writer on Monday.

De la Hoya is pegged as minus 185 favorite to frustrate Pacquiao, while the fire-breathing Filipino fighter is at plus 155 to defeat the Golden Boy of boxing.

Meaning, a $185 exposure on De la Hoya would net only $100, while a $100 bet on Pacquiao rakes in $155 if the Pacman wins the fight.

The odds, however, are expected to somehow level off a few days before the fight, although De la Hoya is expected to be the favorite up until fight time.

Pacquiao had been previously quoted as saying he would rather be branded as an underdog, as this only motivates him to beat De la Hoya.

Several instances in the past, Pacquiao had been a prohibitive underdog, especially in the fight with Lehlo Ledwaba, as well as the first Eric Morales match and the first Barrera showdown.

Meanwhile, four-time world champion Pacquiao gave away 500 turkeys to his many loyal fans at the Lake Street Park in Historic Filipino Town in Los Angeles yesterday. Pacquiao, according to a press release, wished Happy Thanksgiving to all of his fans and said the turkeys were his gift to them for their support.

Pacman gets stronger as Hoya tiff nears

Pacquiao, meanwhile, continues to dazzle and puzzle even those closest to him as he seems to get stronger by the day, less than two weeks before he wages battle with the legendary Oscar De La Hoya on Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao was apparently fired up by a report saying he continues to be the underdog in the upcoming duel.

The MGM Sportsbook indicated two days ago that De la Hoya is pegged as a minus-185 favorite to frustrate Pacquiao, while the Filipino is at plus-155 to defeat the Golden Boy. ***(PDI)***

RECORD

From Page 28

Cooper Graf, James Kim, and Sarah Johnson.

In the 200m IM, Wong timed in at 2:19.23 beating Graf (2:45.61) and teammate Michael Moran (2:53.54).

Wong helped the MHS Dolphins finished second overall in the high school division. The Dolphins and the SIS Geckos had a neck-and-neck battle for the high school crown with the latter earning 162 points against the former's 158.

Grace Christian Academy's Kensuke Kimura was entered in only one event—the 400m freestyle—and made the most of it setting a new mark in the boys' 11 to 12 age group.

Kimura finished the exhausting event in 4:54.33, breaking the 14-year-old record of Joshua Taitano, who timed in at 4:59.03 on Jan. 29, 1994.

Kimura's mark received a Triple As ranking from the Top 16 Motivational Time passing the standard time of 5:01.79 in that ranking. The Triple As ranking is the second highest in the time standard and the GCA tanker is only six minutes behind the Four As ranking (4:48.09).

HEO

From Page 28

Chinese-Taipei's Mao foiled Heo's bid to advance to the main draw when the former posted a 6-3, 6-3 victory over the CNMI bet.

Mao eventually claimed a main draw slot along with three other players who joined the 32-man draw of the qualifier. The list also include Hernandez, Hukwo, and Park.

The ongoing 2008 PHINMA/ITF International Junior Tournament 1 is on its Round of 16, with only Park and Hernandez surviving the tough 32-man main draw.

Completing the main draw's Round of 16 qualifiers are No. 1 seed Francis Casey Alcantara, Leander Lazaro, Jeson Patrombon, and Joshua Ho of the Philippines, Korea's Hong Chung, Jung-Woong Na, and Yong-Jae Kwon Croatia's Josip Mesin, China's Bai Dong Du and Jian-Chong Liang, Japan's Ryoto Tachi and Motoaki Kita, Egypt's Omar Elkheshen, and Malaysia's Christian Oliver Lee.

While the remaining 16 players are battling for the championship, Heo and the rest of those who were eliminated in the qualifier will be preparing for the Tournament 2, which will be held at the same venue next week.

Again, Heo needs to win three matches to make it to the main draw.

The CNMI netter left Saipan for the Philippines Friday morning and the tournament in Manila was his first since competing in Japan in September.

When he returned on Saipan early September, Heo spent a few weeks resting his injured ankles. He did not play a single tournament here and instead resorted to playing several pickup games with CNMI coach Jeff Race, Nicolas and a former colleagiate player.

Heo is still playing hurt wearing braces on both ankles while playing in the Philippines. He sustained the injury while competing in New Caledonia in July and aggravated it in August during the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

ISAIAH

From Page 28

delivered the killer punches for Isaiah canning two charities in the closing seconds of the game to lift his team to a one-point win. The two free throws were the only baskets Licop made in the game.

A triple by Sonny Ranola in the last 10 seconds of the second half put Daniel in the lead, 89-88, after trailing by four going into the last one minute of the match.

After Ranola's triple, Isaiah quickly inbounded the ball and went for a fastbreak play with Licop on the receiving end. Licop drove to the basket and challenged the defense of Elmer Esdrelon, who was called for a blocking foul.

Licop sank both charities giving Isaiah back the lead, 90-89, with two seconds left on the clock.

Daniel had no timeouts left and was force to go for a quick inbound and a hurried shot from Ranola, who missed his desperation triple handing the win to Isaiah.

After Friday's game, Isaiah and Daniel are tied for the lead with identical 4-1 records.

Isaiah controlled the first half leading at 40-31 at halftime, as Tabora exploded for 20 points in the first 20 minutes of the game. Demapan and Tamayo helped Tabora put Isaiah in the driver's seat combining for 18 markers.

Tabora slowed down in the second half, drilling only six markers, but Demapan and Tamayo were there to keep Isaiah afloat, scoring 15 and 14 markers, respectively.

Esdrelon was the lone double figure scorer for Daniel in the first half with his 12 points. He continued to lead Daniel in the second half, firing 26 markers, while Ranola, who did not play in the first half, made up for the lost time, tallying 21 markers.

Esdrelon led all scorers with 38 points, while Ranola finished with 21 markers. But their heroics were overshadowed by Licop's two crucial free throws.

Isaiah 90 – Tabora 26, Demapan 25, Tamayo 22, Pantaleon 7, Pablo 4, Wabinga 2, Hernandez 2, Licop 2.

Daniel 89 – Esdrelon 38, Ranola 21, Talania 11, Fernandez 9, G. Barbo 6, Culala 4.

Scoring by halves: 40-31, 90-89.

HELL

From Page 28

Joining the four-man fight for the overall championship is Guam's Jazy Garcia, who topped the pre-HOM 50-km fun ride last month.

Participants in next Saturday's races will start from PIC's parking lot and head north to the Chalan Piao intersection, make a U-turn back to the start and proceed south into the village of Koblerville toward the Saipan International Airport. From the airport, the cyclists will ride uphill towards the eastern fringes of the island, through the residential villages of San Vicente, Papago, and Kagman toward the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. From the golf course, the bikers will proceed north on Isa Drive and descend down to the Kingfisher Golf Course entrance, and make the U-turn, scaling the long, windy road uphill to Capitol Hill. At the bottom of Capitol Hill, the course converges on Chalan Pale Arnold Road to the next check point high atop Radar Hill in As Matuis. The last portion of the race will bring riders to the historical sites of Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff before they head back along Beach Road and to PIC's finish line.

As a side event, PIC will be assigning "costumed devils" at hill climbs and deep descents to encourage cyclists to sprint and win cash prizes.

Registration will begin at 5:15am at PIC's south parking lot, while races will start at 6:15am.

Aside from the individual 100-km race, interested bikers may join the two-person and four-person relays.

Entrance fee for the individual race, which will have competition in open and age group divisions, is $35 for NMITF members and $40 for non-members.

In the relays, entrance fee per team (two-person) is $80 for non-members and $75 for NMITF members and (four-person) $160 for non-members and $140 for NMITF members.

The top finisher in the men's and women's open will receive $1,000 each and a five-day/four-night Gold Stay for two at PIC Saipan. Second placers will take home $350 each and a two-day/one-night stay for two at PIC Guam, while the third finishers will pocket $250 each and a 2-day/1-night stay for two at PIC Saipan.

This year's Hell of Marianas is sponsored by Aon Insurance, Aquarius Beach Tower, Asia Scooters, Chung Nam Corp., Coca Cola, COP, Deloitte, DFS, DPS, G4S, Hornet, Joeten Ent., JWS, Kautz Glass, KL Carr, MVA, NMIFA, PIC Boutiki, PIC Guam, PTC, PTI, Shell, Sunset Dinner Cruise, Taga Inc., Tinian Dynasty, Triple J 5 Star Saipan, and WDI Saipan.

Dates for Loyola tennis tilt changed

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan tennis instructor Peter Loyola has made changes in the playing days for the 2008 Loyola Sports Yearend Tennis Tournament next month.

Loyola said the tournament will run from Dec. 6 to 8, instead from Dec. 8 to 10 as earlier announced.

Loyola said the new schedule for the tournament will encourage more participants as the playing days fall on weekends.

The yearned tournament will be played at the Fiesta tennis courts and will be having competitions in the junior doubles and adults singles.

The junior doubles event will have four divisions, namely the Levels 1, 2 and 3, and Open.

Participants in the juniors doubles will be classified based on their performance in last month's Loyola tournament while Open doubles will feature players in the 18-and-under age group.

The adults singles is divided into two divisions, namely the men's and women's 3.0 and 4.0.

The adults singles will have a single-elimination format and will be using the eight-game pro set scoring.

Levels 1, 2, and 3 will have the regular six-game set, while the open division will use the eight-game pro set. The junior doubles will have a double-elimination format.

Entrance fee for the adults singles is $7. Each player in the juniors doubles will only pay $5 registration fee.

For more information on the tournament, contact Loyola at 285-3135 or email him at pbloyola@yahoo.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	2	.867	–
New York	7	7	.500	5 1/2
Philadelphia	7	7	.500	5 1/2
New Jersey	6	7	.462	6
Toronto	6	7	.462	6

Southeast Division

Orlando	10	4	.714	–
Atlanta	8	5	.615	1 1/2
Miami	7	7	.500	3
Charlotte	4	9	.308	5 1/2
Washington	2	10	.167	7

Central Division

Cleveland	11	3	.786	–
Detroit	8	5	.615	2 1/2
Chicago	7	8	.467	4 1/2
Milwaukee	7	9	.438	5
Indiana	5	8	.385	5 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	10	5	.667	–
New Orleans	8	5	.615	1
San Antonio	7	6	.538	2
Dallas	7	7	.500	2 1/2
Memphis	4	10	.286	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	9	5	.643	–
Portland	9	6	.600	1/2
Utah	9	6	.600	1/2
Minnesota	3	9	.250	5
Oklahoma City	1	14	.067	8 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	12	1	.923	–
Phoenix	10	5	.667	3
Golden State	5	9	.357	7 1/2
Sacramento	5	11	.313	8 1/2
L.A. Clippers	2	12	.143	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Washington 124, Golden State 100
Cleveland 119, New York 101
Phoenix 99, Oklahoma City 98
Dallas 109, Indiana 106
L.A. Lakers 120, New Jersey 93

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

GENESIS CUP STANDINGS

Daniel	4	1
Isaiah	4	1
Jeremiah	2	3
Ezekiel	0	5

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

(As of Nov. 24, 2008)

Men's Division

DCCA	5	0
CPA	3	0
Freedom Air	4	1
Legislature	4	1
Beach Boys	3	1
Joeten Motors	3	1
DLNR	3	1
Law & Order	2	1
Saipan Cell	2	2
No Zone	2	2
POI	2	2
DEQ/CRM	2	3
P & S	1	3
PSS	1	3
CUC	1	4
CHC	1	3
Customs	0	2
PIC	0	3
Hopwood	0	4
Mayors	0	4

Women's Division

NMC	3	0
DCCA	3	1
Finance	2	2
CHC	1	2
CUC	0	4

NMBF STANDINGS

All Stars	9	3
Gray Hawks	8	4
Smash Killers	6	6
Dragon Shuttlers	6	6
Bad Masters	6	6
D'Bombers	5	7
Blue Powers	4	8
Net Fighters	4	8

NMIFA (Futsal) STANDINGS

	W	L	Draw	Points
MMC	6	1	0	12
Aon Insurance	4	2	1	9
Wild Bill's	4	3	0	8
Marine Tech	3	4	0	6
Matt Smith	2	3	1	5
Hardt Eye	0	6	0	0

2008 All Schools Championships

Above, Whispering Palms' Clay McCullough-Stearns leads the 100m freestyle race during the 2008 All Schools Championships Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Above, Whispering Palms' Victoria Chentsova breaths during the 100m backstroke race.

DAN KIMBALL

Left, GCA's Thea Minor at the start of the 100m backstroke race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Right, GCA's Shin Kimura in the 100m freestyle race.

DAN KIMBALL

Below, Whispering Palms' Gabrielle Race gets some air during the 50m freestyle swim.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Community School's Emma Martinsen swims in the 50m backstroke.

Right, Saipan International School's Cooper Graf does the butterfly part of the 200m individual medley race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Michael Moran in the breaststroke part of the 200m IM race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 100m freestyle swim for the 12-and-under age group plunge into the pool.

De la Hoya favored against Pacquiao

Oscar De la Hoya has remained the favorite over Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, according to the MGM Sportsbook when visited by this writer on Monday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron, Cavaliers roll to victory against Knicks

LeBron James scored 26 points before sitting out the fourth quarter and the Cleveland Cavaliers quickly took a charged-up New York crowd out of the game.

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Record-breaking swims for Rezne, Kensuke

DAN KIMBALL

Marianas High School's Rezne Wong in a record-breaking 100m breaststroke swim Saturday during the 2008 All Schools Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

DAN KIMBALL

GCA's Kensuke Kumura finishes the 400m freestyle swim in record-breaking fashion Saturday during the 2008 All Schools Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three other records were broken during the 2008 All Schools Swimming Championships last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Marianas High School's Rezne Wong swam in the 100m breaststroke event and shattered two records, which he himself set.

The 17-year-old Wong completed the 100m breaststroke race in 1:10.62, a new CNMI National Record. The previous mark was 1:10.91, which Wong himself recorded in May 30, 2008.

Wong's time in last weekend's meet was also a new mark in the boys' 17 to 18 age group with the MHS swimmer eclipsing his own record (1:10.91).

Wong's new record gets an A ranking in the Top 16 Age Group Motivational Time under the U.S. Swimming Time Standards. The A ranking is the fourth highest in the time standard.

Two other MHS swimmers raced against Wong in the 100m breaststroke with Junior Pamaran finishing second with a time of 1:29.67. George Race placed third, timing in at 2:01.80.

Wong competed in two other events—the 200m individual medley and the 200m freestyle relay. He was the finisher for the MHS relay team and led the Dolphins to a first place finish completing the race in 1:56.36.

Joining Wong on the team were Pamaran, Marystar Welch, and Blair Nicholls.

The MHS swimmers were about four minutes ahead of Saipan International School relay team (2:00.75), which was composed of Kai Staal,

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Heo wins debut in ITF event in Manila

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI junior netter Ji Hoon Heo won his debut game in the qualifying round for the 2008 PHINMA/ITF International Junior Tournament 1 Tuesday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila, Philippines.

Heo downed the host's Pemrik Alina in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1, in the Round of 32 of the qualifying tournament.

Joining Heo in the Round of 16 were Japan's Kaichi Uchida, the Philippines' Romar Hernandez, Juan Fidel Regis, Marco Paola Suntay, and Paul Nicole Magaway, Mexico's Nicolas Riefkohl, Peru's Michel James Hukwo, China's Jian-Chong Liang, Ye Yan, and Yuan-Tao Pan, Taipei's Chin Jen Ho and Jui Mao, Korea's Sangmin Park, Malaysia's Jason Michael Lee, and Germany's Delf Gohlke.

The CNMI netter had to win two more games to make it to the main draw of the ITF event, but was ousted in the next round.

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Heo

Isaiah settles score with Daniel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Isaiah avenged its loss to Daniel pulling off a 90-89 win in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup Friday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

When the two teams first met on Oct. 31, Daniel came home with a 66-62 triumph en route to handing Isaiah its first loss in three games.

In the second meeting, it was Isaiah's turn to put a mark on Daniel's clean record. Before losing to Isaiah, Daniel won its first four matches.

Isaiah drew 20-plus points from three players with Jun Tabora leading the way with 26 points. Bart Demapan chipped in 25, while Jeremy Tamayo added 22.

But it was Jake Licop who

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Hell of Marianas targets 75 riders

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Club-organized 2nd Annual Hell of the Marianas is eyeing to have 75 cyclists competing in the 100-kilometer race on Dec. 6.

Participants will come from Saipan, Guam, and Korea and will be cruising along the various villages of the island, climbing hilly roads, and descending steep course.

All eyes will be focused on defending and inaugural Hell winner Eli Torgeson, who completed last year's race in three hours, 20 minutes, 33 seconds.

Challenging Torgeson this year are two Tagaman veterans from Korea, namely Park Hee Chan and Cho Ka On. Park won in the 2002 Tagaman triathlon, while Cho prevailed in the 2008 Jeju International Triathlon and finished third in the 2008 Tagaman Triathlon.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan's Dirk Sharer, behind, and a Guam rider enter the Pacific Islands Club loop in last year's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle. The second edition of the 100km race will be held on Dec. 6.